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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 16th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 7 June 1993, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. HADID (Algeria)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATOR FOR 1992 AND PROGRAMME-LEVEL ACTIVITIES (DP/1993/10 and Add.1-5)

(a) ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT (DP/1993/11)

(c) WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT (DP/1993/13)

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(e) NON-GOVERNMENTAL AND GRASS-ROOTS ORGANIZATIONS (DP/1993/15)

(f) MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (DP/1993/16)

1. Mrs. DOWDESWELL (Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme) said that the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) had become the touchstone of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). By entering into commitments under Agenda 21 and signing the new legal instruments on bio-diversity and climate change, Governments had given political legitimacy to the concept of sustainable development. For its part, UNCED had set in motion a process of inclusiveness, transparency and consensus-building.

2. Of all the organizations in the United Nations system, UNDP and UNEP were the two most capable of synergy in their work on behalf of the environment. At the recent meeting of the UNEP Governing Council, priority-setting had been the main activity. The Group of 77 and China had presented a paper which stressed the need for change, while the European Community had cautioned the Council not to abandon those elements which were responsible for its past successes.

3. For UNEP, there were two fundamental points of reference for that process of change. The first was that sustainable development required the integration of environmental and developmental concerns. While UNEP had some expertise in the environmental component, there was need for the technical knowledge and skills associated with development. The Programme's second point of reference were the ecological ground rules for sustainability based on science, social consensus and public policy.

4. In keeping with Agenda 21, UNEP had decided that one of its priorities should be capacity-building, an area in which it had not had a coherent approach in the past. It proposed to take action to establish environmental machinery, prepare and enforce laws, compile and disseminate information, train human resources in technical disciplines, and promote greater involvement by countries. Capacity-building also required cooperation with other agencies, including the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Bank, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and regional banks. For UNEP, the test of the relevance of its activities was the degree to which they contributed to capacity-building.

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(Mrs. Dowdeswell)

5. The second priority of UNEP was to catalyse responses to environmental problems. UNEP had long been bringing Governments together on environmental issues and, under Agenda 21, it had been mandated to play a leading role in international environmental law, and particularly in ensuring better implementation of existing agreements. Her agency had made a particularly valuable contribution to the elaboration of international marine instruments, including instruments on land-based sources of marine pollution. The link between resource scarcity and international security was very clear and in areas such as the management of international freshwater resources international regulation was necessary in order to limit conflicts before they spun out of control. While much more could be done to shape international laws in the field of the environment, UNEP believed that emphasis should be placed on implementation rather than further regulation.

6. A third priority was for UNEP to monitor continuously the state of the Earth and to use the data thus compiled as a tool for the management of its natural resources. The Programme had the capacity to make the necessary linkages between issues such as ozone-layer depletion and agriculture and to serve as the focal point for an early warning system on the ozone layer, bio-diversity and toxic waste. Its Earthwatch system, however, needed to be strengthened. Indeed, UNEP needed to change its way of doing certain things and must work in partnerships at all levels in order to avoid the duplication of services and to move beyond the separate fiefdoms that had so hampered progress in the past.

7. There was, unfortunately, a large gap between development and environmental issues. The tools of international decision-making ignored the environment and failed to ascribe value to the cost/benefit element for other generations. UNEP wished to join with UNDP in helping to close that gap. It supported a number of the projects which UNDP had on the table and would seek to ensure complementarity between its own projects in capacity-building and those of UNDP. Existing UNDP programmes, such as the one to assist China in developing its own Agenda 21 and the fledgling programme in Africa on legislation and Government, provided opportunities for cooperation between UNDP and UNEP. Her agency, which had previously been working on global issues, had been asked by its Governing Council to be more sensitive to the immediate problems of developing countries and, in that regard, the UNDP presence in the field, via its resident representatives, would be extremely useful. UNDP had also provided for 41 national officers dedicated exclusively to environment matters. Their deployment would provide a link with UNEP and serve as a useful vehicle for adding an economic perspective to the agenda for sustainable development. Cooperation between UNEP and Habitat, particularly in promoting the concept of sustainable cities, provided another example of the synergy which could be developed between two agencies.

8. The experience of UNEP had shown that the most effective cooperation was often the least structured. Despite the limited formal links between UNEP and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), for example, the two agencies had cooperated very successfully, largely because they were both more interested in results rather than in particular activities.

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(Mrs. Dowdeswell)

9. The new focus of the Programme was on decentralization. Its staff would in future be judged not by how much funding they attracted but by the extent to which they delivered results using available resources. In that connection, cooperation with UNDP was one such available resource. Officers would be given the tools and allowed to do their jobs. UNDP and UNEP, in her view, could achieve a lot more together than they could apart.

10. Miss LØJ (Observer for Denmark), speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States, said that the optimism that had characterized the thirty-ninth session of the Governing Council following the collapse of the then global power structures and ideological rivalries was now tempered by the sense of realism which informed the debate at the current session.

11. The changing world, the new challenges ahead, and a world economy in distress made it more important than ever for the Council to bring forward the discussions on the future role of UNDP. The developing countries, and especially the least developed among them, which were the principal recipients of UNDP assistance, should be closely involved in those discussions. The Community welcomed the fact that reflections on that question had already begun both within the organization and among member countries. An important basis for those reflections had already been provided in General Assembly resolution 47/199, which the Community fully supported.

12. The discussions must also cover the comprehensive and substantive reforms of the United Nations system in the economic and social fields, on which the Community hoped that agreement would be reached in the very near future. The reforms would provide the framework for an overall strengthening of the operational activities of the United Nations for the benefit of developing countries and would more clearly define the respective roles of the different agencies of the United Nations system, including UNDP. The overall objective was more effective governance, which was a prerequisite for establishing the confidence needed to attract sufficient resources.

13. Some of the important instruments for shaping the new role of UNDP had already been put into place, including the priority themes, national execution, capacity-building, the programme approach and the successor arrangements for agency support costs. The process must still be taken a decisive step further, however, and seek to respond to the basic question of what UNDP was best at, and what should be the particular profile that distinguished it from other United Nations organizations.

14. During the preparations for the fifth programming cycle, it became evident that, in order to ensure greater impact, UNDP needed to focus its activities. That process of programme focusing and concentration had been facilitated by the identification of capacity-building as the overall objective of UNDP activities and the introduction of the programme approach. The country programmes presented to the Council had demonstrated that effect. Based on the experience gained from the country programming exercises for the fifth cycle, however, the question must be asked whether the themes chosen were still too broadly defined and whether the activities of UNDP were spread too thinly over too many areas.

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(Miss Løj, Observer, Denmark)

15. UNDP enjoyed certain functional and substantive comparative advantages. The functional comparative advantages were the result of its 40 years of experience in designing and delivering technical assistance, its well-established relationships with governments and with multilateral and bilateral organizations, and its extensive field network. That structure should be used when shaping the substantive comparative advantages of UNDP and its future role. The four multisectoral and multidisciplinary themes mentioned in the report of the Administrator should therefore be regarded as examples and as a point of departure for further discussion.

16. One of the potential roles of UNDP was to assist local, national and regional capacity-building in the field of environment and development. The possibility of attracting additional resources for that purpose had been widely recognized. In that connection, the functional comparative advantages of UNDP could be effectively utilized and capacity-building for sustainable development could therefore be considered as one of the areas in which UNDP could develop its substantive comparative advantages.

17. The Capacity 21 initiative launched by UNDP in keeping with the recommendations of UNCED had taken off to a slow start due, inter alia, to insufficient consultations with member countries. Member countries had been asked to more thoroughly work out their programme proposals and to outline how Capacity 21 activities could be incorporated into existing development plans, environmental concerns considered in designing new development activities, and cooperation undertaken with other organizations in that field. UNDP had since provided answers to many of those questions and the momentum had picked up, thereby attracting the funds needed for the initiative. In order to fulfil its potential, however, Capacity 21 must help to promote sustainable development throughout the activities of UNDP.

18. A number of cross-sectoral considerations should also be integrated into all of the activities of UNDP in order to ensure sustainable development. They included not only environmental considerations, but also the promotion of popular participation in development in order to ensure that the benefits of development were extended to all sectors of the population.

19. The long-standing relationships between Governments and UNDP and the Programme's wide field representation had resulted in its increasing involvement in the electoral process in a variety of developing countries, thus placing on it greater responsibilities for the establishment of good governance and the consolidation of new democracies. Because of its political neutrality and its independence of commercial interests, UNDP was well equipped to help build national or local capacity in that field. It could also draw on its wide connections with and knowledge of relevant international institutions and United Nations organizations, including the United Nations Volunteers Programme, which had proved to be very valuable in those programmes.

20. The same functional comparative advantages had been put to use in the area of humanitarian assistance. UNDP resident representatives, acting as United Nations coordinators, had in several instances been called upon to assist in coordinating assistance in emergencies and such a function could perhaps be institutionalized. UNDP could also play an important role in the area of

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(Miss Løj, Observer, Denmark)

rehabilitation. The execution of humanitarian or emergency assistance, however, was better left to those organizations that were equipped to deal with such situations.

21. It might therefore be concluded that capacity-building in relation to good governance and the democratic process could be considered part of the substantive comparative advantages of UNDP. Humanitarian and emergency assistance, however, should be based only on the role of UNDP as the coordinator of United Nations activities in the field.

22. Turning to the Human Development Report and the concept of sustainable development which had been developed from that work, she observed that the Report allowed UNDP to adopt a truly multisectoral approach. It joined together the many different experiences and past activities of the Programme and pointed towards the future profile of UNDP. To ensure the credibility of that undertaking, however, it was essential to protect the independence of the Human Development Report team and to ensure that correlations which the team found important to investigate, such as the relationship between human freedom and development, could be pursued.

23. In 1992 and 1993, the Governing Council had welcomed a number of newly independent States as members of UNDP with recipient status. Although it had been recognized that UNDP had a role to play in those new member States, it had also been emphasized that the Programme should further elaborate on its planned activities in the region. The Community therefore regretted that UNDP had chosen to interpret the relevant Governing Council decision on the establishment of offices in the region in a way that could not be justified and it hoped that future decisions of the Council would be implemented in an open and transparent manner in accordance with their letter and spirit.

24. On the future role of UNDP, the Community believed that the activities chosen to shape that future should share a common concept of sustainable human development. The achievement of that goal, however, depended on how national and local policies were generated and implemented, on good governance and on respect for human rights. UNDP was already involved in capacity-building as it related to governance and in facilitating the evolution of democratic processes. The Community saw that kind of capacity-building as one of the major functions of UNDP in the years ahead.

25. She concluded by expressing the Community's sincere appreciation to the outgoing Administrator of UNDP, Mr. William Draper III, for his many years of dedicated service to UNDP at a time when the Programme had had to respond to profound changes taking place in the world.

26. Mr. MARUYAMA (Japan) said that Administrator Draper's departure from UNDP was clearly a tremendous loss. Under Mr. Draper's tenure, the relationship between UNDP and the Japanese Government had developed steadily, with Japan's voluntary contributions to the core fund increasing by an average of 5.8 per cent per year since 1983.

27. UNDP found itself in a paradoxical position. While voluntary contributions to UNDP were in decline as a result of the budgetary difficulties of some donor

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(Mr. Maruyama, Japan)

nations, there was pressure on the Programme to expand and diversify its activities and employ a broader range of service delivery methods. An additional challenge was the restructuring process within the Organization. It was unclear what the implications of restructuring would be, particularly in the case of the relocation of the Office for Project Services (OPS) to the Secretariat. He hoped that UNDP would weather that period of uncertainty, since UNDP had long been the central funding organ for the entire range of the Organization's technical cooperation activities.

28. He shared the view of many members that the ultimate purpose of development was not to raise overall economic growth rates but to strengthen and enhance the national capacity of developing countries through sustainable human development. National execution of development programmes, together with limited intervention by an assisting agency, should be encouraged as well as a decentralized programme approach. The people of a country and their health, welfare and education were the factors which determined the success of development efforts.

29. In that connection, he praised the Human Development Report for its practical recommendations concerning implementation of UNDP technical assistance programmes. He noted with approval that the Human Freedom Index had been removed from the Report, since, as Japan had pointed out at the previous session of the Governing Council, it was inappropriate and beyond the mandate of UNDP to reduce human freedom to a set of statistics. With respect to UNDP involvement in elections sponsored by the United Nations, as in Cambodia, Japan was of the view that other agencies were better equipped to take on that particular responsibility, although he did pay tribute to the United Nations volunteers, including a Japanese national, who had lost their lives in the effort to restore democracy in that country. He also welcomed the Report's emphasis on preventive measures for development to address the implications of such factors as poverty, narcotics and AIDS. Lastly, he had some concerns regarding statements in the Report concerning the links between development aid and democracy or human rights, in particular, on the question of whether it would be appropriate for States to continue to provide assistance to NGOs. For example, in some instances direct assistance to NGOs could be regarded as interference in the internal affairs of a recipient State. His Government had made it clear that it would take into account the state of human rights and democracy in a country in formulating and implementing official bilateral development assistance, although it would not necessarily withdraw or reduce assistance to a repressive Government on an automatic basis. Japan believed that assistance programmes should be implemented so as to encourage a recipient Government to move in the direction of greater democracy and respect for human rights.

30. Japan recognized that a balance must be struck between the imperatives of human development and the environment in order to achieve sustainable development. In that context, his delegation welcomed the initiatives taken by UNDP to follow up on the decisions taken at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) and General Assembly resolution 47/191 on institutional arrangements with respect to UNCED. As an organization having working relationships with Governments and NGOs, UNDP enjoyed a comparative advantage in formulating and implementing programmes in that field. The launching of Capacity 21 was an example of UNDP's activities with respect to

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(Mr. Maruyama, Japan)

follow-up to UNCED, and Japan had made a contribution of $10 million to the pilot phase of the initiative. Through programmes such as Capacity 21 and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Japan believed UNDP would continue to play a leading role in promoting sustainable development.

31. Japan appreciated the role UNDP had been playing in promoting sustainable development in Africa. He noted with appreciation the valuable support provided by the Office of Project Services (OPS) as the executing agency in the implementation of the non-project grant assistance which Japan had extended to more than 20 countries. He was also proud to note that an international conference on development in Africa would be held in Tokyo in 1993. His delegation firmly believed that UNDP would contribute substantially to the success of the conference.

32. Assistance to the Palestinian people was another area in which UNDP had a leading role. Japan had high regard for the efforts of UNDP headquarters and its Jerusalem office to coordinate assistance activities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. He announced that Japan had pledged up to $3 million for emergency aid to those areas, a large portion of which was specifically earmarked to remedy environmental damage.

33. The efforts of UNDP to foster private enterprises and facilitate privatization figured prominently in the Administrator's report. He reiterated his delegation's support for the allocation of country indicative planning figures (IPFs) to the Commonwealth of Independent States in support of capacity-building activities for the transition to a market-oriented economy.

34. Japan also welcomed the initiatives of UNDP in providing relief and rehabilitation for international migrants and internally displaced persons, and he encouraged the Programme to continue its efforts in the combat against HIV/AIDS and to control the traffic in illegal narcotics.

35. With respect to the decision to relocate the Office for Projects Services (OPS) from UNDP to the Secretariat, he said that, while his Government basically supported initiatives to streamline the structure of the Organization and reduce costs, he nevertheless believed that restructuring should never conflict with the goals of reform. Reform without restructuring was just a goal, while restructuring without reform produced only confusion and disorder. Whether or not OPS would be able to continue to play an important role would depend on its ability to receive budgetary support from UNDP rather than from the regular budget of the Organization. He was of the opinion that OPS activities should continue to be overseen by the UNDP Governing Council.

36. His Government welcomed the efforts of the UNDP Administrator to rationalize the management and organizational structure of the programme by reducing the number of senior-level posts and he encouraged the Secretariat to continue such efforts in the future. He also noted that Japan itself was going through a period of restructuring as a result of severe budgetary difficulties. He hoped that the process would result in closer and more effective cooperation between the field activities of UNDP and those of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

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37. Mr. BENNET (United States of America) said that Administrator Draper had continued the distinguished tradition of UNDP in turning development dreams into reality. Under his direction UNDP had developed innovations, including the influential Human Development Report, collaborative projects with NGOs and the private sector, women's programmes, human capacity-building and support for democracy. In addition, UNDP field operations were becoming an increasingly prominent feature of the landscape in many areas of the world. Lastly, Administrator Draper had set a new standard for performance among staff members and his management training programmes had yielded clear results.

38. The change of UNDP administration coincided with the enormous transformations that were occurring in the world at large. The world community was turning increasingly to the Organization to find solutions to the three critical problems of the 1990s and beyond: the creation of new frameworks for international peace and security; effective responses to natural and man-made humanitarian crises; and the promotion of effective development cooperation. Notwithstanding the demands made on the Organization as a result of those factors, the budgets of member States would be taxed so severely in the short term that development flows would probably continue to decline. For its part, the United States was committed to mitigating the impact of that decline by identifying economies to be achieved in the use of existing resources. In that connection, he commended UNDP for taking a cooperative and constructive approach in working together with the Department of Humanitarian Assistance (DHA) during a number of humanitarian emergencies.

39. Contemporary challenges to development were occurring against the background of some significant successes. In that connection, he drew attention to, inter alia, the economic transformations in Asia since the 1970s, the achievement of net food surpluses in south-west Asia, industrial growth in the South, and economic rejuvenation in Latin America. While southern Africa had experienced some progress, the rest of the continent still lagged behind other regions; therefore, UNDP should retain a priority focus on Africa in addressing problems such as population growth, the alleviation of poverty and sustainable development.

40. Recent political and economic changes gave the world a new opportunity to reach a consensus concerning representative democracy, individual human rights and market-based economic systems. At the same time, however, the critical needs of people in Somalia, the Sudan, Bosnia and Herzegovina and the newly independent States were competing for resources. The United States believed that UNDP had the potential capacity to mobilize and consolidate the resources of a fragmented United Nations system. UNDP needed to assume a coordinating role for all United Nations agencies in support of social and economic development. The Council should envisage coalitions for sustainable development organized by UNDP among recipient and donor Governments, NGOs, and the Organizations's field apparatus. Such coalitions would have common priorities and would be better able to direct resources to maximum effect.

41. In a period of changing leadership for UNDP and restructuring in the Secretariat, the Governing Council must work constructively to preserve UNDP's strongest assets: its mandate for system-wide coordination, its operational experience; and its comprehensive field network. Preserving those elements of

(Mr. Bennet, United States)

the Programme would give the new management flexibility in reshaping and focusing UNDP activities to reconcile short-term needs and long-term goals. In that context, support cost arrangements represented a step in the direction of greater interagency cooperation in national execution. Maintaining UNDP as an effective, strong, field-based institution would ensure that the United Nations development system would be able to meet the new challenges it would face in the future. Any change in the site of UNDP's headquarters would seriously impair efficient operation of the Programme.

42. He welcomed the prudent budget planning and staff restructuring recommended by the Administrator. The proposed changes would create a wider array of options for existing and future programmes alike. Member States recognized that funding for UNDP would likely be constrained for the immediate future as a result of the competing demands for peacekeeping, humanitarian assistance, peace-making and other activities.

43. Resource flows from the United Nations in the form of technical cooperation grants were an important complement to bilateral assistance and helped countries create policy environments that promoted domestic private investment. The Governing Council needed to build upon UNDP's efforts in the area of technical cooperation and strengthen other aspects of the development partnership through active involvement of NGOs in the UNDP programme-planning process.

44. Mr. MACHIN (United Kingdom) said he supported the comments made by Denmark on behalf of the European Community and its member States. He too was saddened by the prospect of Administrator Draper's departure and he paid tribute to him.

45. Turning to the report of the Administrator, he said that under Administrator Draper, most of the prerequisites to an effective future role for UNDP had been met. For example, the Programme's focus on sustainable human development, capacity-building and institution-building in recipient countries had transformed the way the world looked upon the development process.

46. Another of Mr. Draper's initiatives, the Human Development Report, had made important contributions to many aspects of the development debate. For their part, officials in the United Kingdom Overseas Development Administration frequently consulted the Report. He appreciated the emphasis in the Report on people-based solutions to development problems as opposed State-based ones.

47. Administrator Draper should also be congratulated for his innovative and bold actions to streamline UNDP's administrative budget. Particularly noteworthy in that regard were the reductions he had achieved for the 1994-1995 period as well as the revamped staff appraisal system.

48. With regard to the future he agreed that UNDP's activities should respond to the national plans and priorities of recipient Governments. One obvious priority in that regard was sustainable development. UNDP had a specific mandate following the International Conference on Environment and Development to implement UNCED decisions with respect to the Global Environment Facility (GEF), Capacity 21, the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and other areas. Most importantly, UNDP must integrate the principles of

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(Mr. Machin, United Kingdom)

sustainable development into all of its activities. While the Programme was aware of its needs in that regard, achieving the goal of full integration of sustainable development principles would be a difficult task. That task was the Council's major challenge in the years ahead.

49. The transition of countries to democracy and good governance was also of particular importance to his Government and it fully supported the involvement of UNDP in that area through its close relationship and high level of trust with so many developing countries.

50. More attention should be devoted to the relief to development continuum. He therefore welcomed the recent agreement on cooperation between the Department for Humanitarian Assistance and UNDP in the area of humanitarian assistance. On the strength of its wide field network, there was a real role for UNDP in making developing countries more resilient to natural and man-made disasters and in helping to ease the transition from humanitarian relief to genuine longer-term development.

51. He paid tribute to the United Nations volunteers for their increasingly important role in the area of disaster relief as well as in their traditional grass-roots activities.

52. The major challenge facing UNDP on the eve of the twenty-first century was how to reprioritize its activities so as to ensure that its scarce resources would be spent wisely for the Programme to have an impact in those areas where it had a strong capability.

53. UNDP must improve its reporting to the Council on the true impact and output of its work so that performance could be seen and measured against inputs, and in that regard his delegation welcomed the references to feedback in the Administrator's report. The Council must be more disciplined in giving guidance based on the Programme's actual performance in the field.

54. Mr. ALOISI DE LARDEREL (Italy) said that within the framework of United Nations reform UNDP should improve its role as a coordinator of activities and a source of new concepts for development policies. While the Programme's role as the central funding body for technical cooperation might be modified over time, it should not detract from its role as the focus of development aid within the United Nations system.

55. His delegation fully agreed with the Administrator's reasons as to why the Programme's role should be maintained and strengthened. In that connection, others could be added: first, the inter-disciplinary approach promoted by the Secretary-General predicated and implied a coordinating role by a body such as UNDP; secondly, as a result of the growing gap between financial resources available for development assistance and the increasing need to support integrated international action, the need for international coordination of aid within the framework of technical assistance institutions (such as UNDP) or financial institutions (such as the World Bank) was becoming more urgent; and thirdly, UNDP was the only organization which successfully blended economic

(Mr. Aloisi de Larderel, Italy)

development, humanitarian assistance and protection for human rights with the aim of achieving human and sustainable development.

56. Although the current budget of Italian external aid had been reduced, the Government's plan to cooperate with international organizations and financial institutions and to provide co-financing in general should allow it to continue its strong support of UNDP.

57. Top priority should be given by the international community to assistance to Africa and it should be reflected in the Programme's activities in the coming years. Apart from financial resources, it was essential to ensure the full participation of local governments and communities and to devise an approach specifically suited to the problems of the region. The Italian aid programme already gave a very high priority to Africa particularly the continent's least developed countries.

58. As his country was convinced of the links between human development and democracy and political stability, it had actively supported the Programme's initiatives to promote the electoral process in many countries. Peace-keeping was equally important in that context.

59. His delegation fully supported the human development approach devised by UNDP which, apart from its merits of defining the objectives of aid policy, had also proved to be an asset in the essential task that Governments faced in mobilizing public opinion and political support for development aid. His Government planned to give particular attention to the development of local entrepreneurial capacity and to private sector activities both as an engine for growth and an incentive for democratic stability. In that regard Italy was prepared to support the Programme's initiatives.

60. Along with development assistance there was a concomitant need for more open international markets even if the latter goal was more difficult to achieve in a time of global recession and sluggish growth in international trade. Equally important were consistently good standards in political and economic governance in assisted countries. In view of the sensitivity of those matters, a policy dialogue conducted by a neutral agency such as UNDP could make an invaluable contribution.

61. His delegation hoped that the final decisions on the future role and structure of UNDP would result in strengthening the United Nations operations in favour of developing countries. Finally, he paid tribute to Mr. Draper for his intelligent and dedicated stewardship of UNDP.

62. Mr. POPESCU (Romania) said that his delegation hoped that the reduction in the level of financing of the indicative planning figures for the cycle was only a temporary difficulty which would soon be overcome, that there would not be another financial crisis like that of the third cycle and that the compromise reached after two years of arduous consultations and negotiations on the 8 per cent annual growth rate for total voluntary contributions for the current IPF cycle would hold firm.

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(Mr. Popescu, Romania)

63. Despite its economic and social difficulties together with the subsequent adverse impact on social life as a whole, Romania was determined to pursue the process of economic reform. The new government was striving to consolidate the democratic process while maintaining a rational level of social spending. It was focusing, in that regard, on measures to stop the decline in production during the second half of 1993 by harmonizing macroeconomic stabilization with the structural adjustment policy.

64. However, domestic policy reforms would not be sufficient to achieve recovery and sustain transition to an open market economy. In line with the Bucharest UNDP round table, direct international financial and technical assistance was essential over the next few years. In that regard, the signing of an agreement of association covering the European Community, its member States and Romania, together with the recent meeting of the Group of 24 and of the World Bank consultative group for Romania, confirmed such international assistance for his country.

65. UNDP had continued to cooperate with and assist his Government and had, under the Fifth IPF Country Programme for Romania, selected three major areas of concentration for assistance: strengthening the Government's privatization programme, human resources development and environmental protection.

66. His country had incurred severe economic and financial losses as a result of the implementation of United nations Security Council sanctions applied against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). On that subject, UNDP might consider adopting a special assistance programmes for the rehabilitation of the economic sectors in countries affected by the sanctions. The Administrator could, for instance establish a trust fund for that specific purpose in line with regulation 5.1 of the financial regulations of UNDP.

67. The Romanian Government would continue to spend allocated funds in the most efficient manner. Despite its economic and financial difficulties, his Government had increased its voluntary contribution by 60 per cent in 1992 and 200 per cent in 1993. As a result of the sharp decline in its per capita gross national product, Romania was entitled to a waiver of 50 per cent instead of 20 per cent with respect to local office costs.

68. Mr. GUILLEN (Peru) underscored the great contribution being made by UNDP to his country's development with the support of donor countries. In addition to technical cooperation, the Programme was providing consultation services for implementing specific projects and advising the State in the field of public management in order to make its institutional apparatus more efficient. UNDP was also providing support for privatizing public enterprises, promoting employment and social development, renewing the public sector and establishing a policy to protect the environment and natural resources. In that context, his Government attached particular importance to the Programme's impartiality and autonomy, which should always be maintained.

69. Peru's economic stabilization programme had been carried out on the basis of its own efforts and had required great sacrifice on the part of the Peruvian people. Having overcome its financing difficulties, his country was now

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(Mr. Guillen, Peru)

receiving substantial loans from the World Bank and Inter-American Development Bank. Additional resources were still necessary in order to alleviate Peru's critical situation, which was well known to a number of donor countries. There were two areas of mutual interest for Peru and donor countries, where UNDP participation could be crucial: environmental protection and population. His country was particularly interested in the system of special resource programmes and new funding areas, such as the environment. In view of the Programme's effective cooperation with Peru and its immense comparative advantage throughout the region, he hoped that those efforts would not be affected by reductions in financial resources, which would penalize the countries where they were put to best use.

70. Mrs. AL-AWADHI (Kuwait) expressed appreciation for the annual report of the Administrator for 1992 and programme level activities. It was important for UNDP to implement the tasks entrusted to it by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), in particular with regard to Capacity 21, the Global Environment Facility, the Montreal Protocol and desiccation and desertification control. He stressed the need for close cooperation and effective coordination with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the avoidance of duplication. In order to carry out its expanded mandate, UNDP should seek additional sources of funding from all possible quarters.

71. The environmental catastrophe arising from the burning by the Iraqi aggressors of over 700 oil wells in Kuwait would require coordinated international measures to prevent environmental degradation and to rehabilitate the environment. Efforts should be continued on the survey and detailed assessment of the damage and on follow-up on studies of the current and future impact of environmental pollution on human health, as well as on combating land pollution from oil and rehabilitating the soil. Studies should be completed on the damage to and the rehabilitation of the sea environment.

72. With respect to regional economic integration, there should be support for the policy adopted since the fourth programming cycle of designing projects and allocating funds at the subregional and semiregional levels. He commended UNDP for its support of regional cooperation in the Arab region through the provision of technical assistance to the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in the form of short technical consultancies, and to the League of Arab States, in particular with respect to the Arab Regional Information System Network (ARIS-NET). He expressed appreciation for the technical support provided to develop and expand trade between the Arab countries, which was still less than 8 per cent of their total trade.

73. He expressed his appreciation for UNDP activities concerning the role of women in development (WID). As a result, most country programmes had expressed some commitment to WID issues. UNDP had entrusted important tasks in WID to the resident representatives and the Administrator. There had also been an essential development in the cooperation between UNDP and the specialized agencies of the role of women in development in numerous joint projects and programmes, including the collection of information and statistics on women, vocational training, education, health care and social welfare, as well as

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(Mrs. Al-Awadhi, Kuwait)

preparations for the World Conference on Women to be held in China in 1995. All support should be given to UNDP field offices for their WID activities in close collaboration with the public and private agencies in each country. Attention should also be paid to the preparations for the 1995 World Conference on Women, and the national bodies concerned should be informed of all the developments and arrangements being made in preparation for that conference in order to ensure its success.

74. In conclusion, he expressed his delegation's appreciation for the valuable efforts of Mr. William Draper as Administrator of UNDP at a time of scarce financial resources and administrative difficulties within the United Nations. He drew particular attention to the personal and official interest the Administrator had taken in women's affairs and the role of women in development, as a result of which a number of well-qualified women had been able to occupy high-level posts in UNDP. He wished him every success in his future activities regarding international development.

75. Mr. EBRAHIM AL DOSARI (Observer for Bahrain) commended the efforts of UNDP to promote sustainable development through its social, economic and environmental activities. UNDP programmes should aim to achieve the objectives of Capacity 21 by taking into account the objective circumstances of developing countries to enable them to benefit from available resources in that field. The Programme should give priority to solving the environmental problems of developing countries and, in particular, should deal with the pollution and environmental damage caused by the 1991 Gulf war. He hoped that UNDP would provide further support and assistance to developing countries in general and to the Gulf countries in particular.

76. Mr. KÄÄRIÄ (Finland) said that together with the other Nordic countries, Finland had actively participated in the negotiations on reforming the United Nations system, including operational activities for development. Once the emerging consensus was formally approved by the General Assembly, UNDP should take the necessary steps in that regard. The Programme's functions must be maintained, but it should be flexible and prepared for change. Its role should be assessed within the context of other international agencies and at the level of the United Nations system. The cross-sectoral nature of activities supported by UNDP was one of the Programme's most important comparative advantages. To ensure impact and true complementarity, UNDP must focus its activities and funding on areas where its services were most needed and where there were few alternatives. Consideration should be given to focusing the Programme's assistance solely on the least or less developed countries, whose capacity for improving human resources and for sustainable development was very limited.

77. There was no contradiction in concentrating UNDP development activities in the least developed countries and at the same time maintaining a presence in other countries for specific services provided to the United Nations system and reimbursed by the system in full. The highly valued assistance provided by UNDP through the Resident Coordinator and its field offices would be recognized in such an arrangement. Since coordination should be the responsibility of the host country, the first priority in UNDP external support ought to be capacity-building of national and local coordination mechanisms. The reform of

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(Mr. Kääriä, Finland)

the financing mechanisms for operational activities for development would ensure a more predictable and stable financial basis for UNDP. It was a question of rightly chosen assistance, innovative solutions to difficult situations and utilization of existing human capacity. Lastly, the Human Development Reports were essential for dealing with various development questions and problems. He hoped that the issues of international empowerment and empowerment of individuals as set forth in the Reports would continue to have an impact on the Programme's future work.

78. Mr. WRIGHT (Canada) said that within the context of the new challenges and constraints facing the United Nations system, there was a need to clarify the future role of the Programme and its place in that system. UNDP was in a position to provide intellectual leadership in key areas of development and chart directions for the future. People-centred development was essential and more needed to be invested in social capital so that people could lead productive lives and realize their potential. One of the Programme's contributions had been its work with non-governmental and grass-root organizations and its recognition of their efforts in national capacity-building. He was particularly struck by efforts, primarily in Africa, to foster greater three-way cooperation among Governments, non-governmental organizations and UNDP. Encouraging non-governmental organizations to become partners in development would enhance the effectiveness of development efforts.

79. The Programme's efforts since 1990 to implement its women-in-development mandate were commendable. Such work should be expanded to include ministries as well as labour and human rights organizations and to address legal rights issues as they related differently to men and women. Encouraging that support could be catalytic and bring about long-term changes leading to gender equity. Canada viewed that as a societal, economic and political issue, not just a women's issue. His delegation expressed satisfaction with the efforts of the Administrator to take a more gender-based approach to programming, support UNIFEM and bring more women into the professional ranks of UNDP. Canada would be monitoring closely the efforts of his successor to promote gender-sensitive policies and improve the ratio of women in senior ranks. Gender-sensitivity training was vital and UNDP should continue to take the lead in providing such training both in its programming and within the organization itself.

80. In terms of the environment, UNDP might be trying to pursue too ambitious an approach in its follow-up to UNCED and was not taking the role of other players sufficiently into account. The key in that area was coordination. Developing countries could not afford to have the Programme use its limited resources to substitute for activities more appropriately funded by the Global Environment Facility, bilateral donors or other sources. UNDP could work with Governments to help ensure that all the initiatives, funds and instruments resulting from the UNCED process meshed together at the national level to support the same global objectives. The Programme's comparative advantage could be put to best use in the role of a facilitator. Within UNDP itself, support for capacity-building for sustainable development should be part of regular country programmes.

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(Mr. Wright, Canada)

81. The Programme's comparative advantages were its widespread in-country presence, relative neutrality and the trust that it inspired in the many countries where it operated. Its overall role had both an intellectual and an operational side. To play an effective intellectual role, the Programme should view itself as a knowledge-based or information-based organization and acquire both the technology and trained human capacity to make the most of it. On the operational side, the Programme could make a key contribution by helping Governments and societies plan for sustainable development, combining environmental sustainability with economic, political, cultural and social sustainability. Such national frameworks provided the basis for effective integration of local and external resources.

82. Mr. DE GROOT (United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)) said that the capacity for sustainable development in industry had three components: human resources, institutions and an enabling environment. UNIDO had the expertise, experience and political mandate for sustainable industrial development and capacity-building in that area. While UNIDO integrated the same sustainability concerns in all its projects and programmes, Capacity 21 would provide important complementary funding for specific capacity-building activities within those programmes.

83. In order to assist countries to develop their own national programmes and request the necessary assistance, his organization had drawn up a proposal which outlined the main thrust areas of activity for Capacity 21 in the industry sector and provided models for possible projects in those areas. UNIDO was ready to cooperate with UNDP in ensuring the success of Capacity 21 and responding to requests for assistance from Member States in that essential field.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.

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Fortieth session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 17th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 7 June 1993, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. SERRATE CUELLAR (Vice-President) (Bolivia)

CONTENTS

Annual report of the Administrator for 1992 and programme-level activities (continued)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATOR FOR 1992 AND PROGRAMME-LEVEL ACTIVITIES (continued) (DP/1993/10 and Add.1-5)

1. Mr. DESAI (Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development) said that it was vital to redirect development cooperation to take account of the sweeping changes taking place throughout the world, by making good use of the opportunities offered by major global conferences. The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio had addressed the need for environment and development policy to take into account considerations of sustainability, while the International Conference on Population and Development to be held in 1994 would mark another important step forming a link between the Earth Summit and the World Summit for Social Development and the World Conference on Women to be held in 1995. The theme common to all the conferences was the importance of the human being as the central concern and the primary mover of development. UNDP had a crucial role to play in redirecting development cooperation without losing sight of the relevance of long-standing development issues such as finance and debt, trade reform, technology development and transfer, poverty alleviation and social development.

2. While Member States were discussing, at the intergovernmental level, the introduction of more effective structures and processes, changes were being introduced at the Secretariat level. The main focus of the newly created Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development was to provide support for the central coordinating and policy-making functions of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies, as well as the Second and Third Committees of the General Assembly. Its main concerns would be policy development, integrating the economic as well as the social and environmental dimensions of major policy issues such as growth and adjustment, poverty, hunger and malnutrition and the advancement of women; supporting the Secretary-General's efforts to achieve system-wide coordination; providing substantive support to intergovernmental bodies; preparing the World Summit for Social Development and the fourth World Conference on Women; coordinating the follow-up of global conferences; and providing technical secretariat services to relevant intergovernmental bodies.

3. Turning to the question of the follow-up to the Rio Conference, he acknowledged the effective support for the environmental priorities of recipient countries given by UNDP through, inter alia, Capacity 21, the fifth cycle country programmes and its involvement in the Global Environment Facility and other vital activities. He welcomed the range of actions taken by UNDP to enhance its role in the implementation of Agenda 21, by providing catalytic resources, bringing together various actors in the field, and using its capacity to assess technical cooperation requirements and programme technical assistance in priority areas. Through its field offices and the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office (UNSO), UNDP was also helping to address the urgent problems of desertification and drought, within the framework of an international convention to combat desertification. Increasing UNDP capacity at field level to carry out the important follow-up tasks was of vital importance and he trusted that the proposals on that question before the current session would receive favourable consideration.

(Mr. Desai)

4. On the question of General Assembly resolution 47/199, a full progress report would be submitted to the forthcoming operational segment of the Economic and Social Council. A number of recent measures had been taken at the system-wide level and agreement had been reached on a common interpretation of the programme approach and of national execution, as requested in paragraphs 13 and 22 of the resolution. Initial steps had been taken to ascertain the interest of recipient countries in using the country strategy note, in line with the provisions of paragraph 9. Measures to strengthen the resident coordinator system in accordance with paragraphs 36 to 39 were being considered, while important initiatives had been taken to launch the preparation of a common United Nations system-wide manual, as required by paragraph 33, to increase harmonization and adaptation of programming cycles to cover 80 per cent of the countries by 1996 and to enhance accountability at the field level. The training provisions of the resolution had been reviewed with the aim of extending the introduction of new concepts such as the programme approach and enhancing the coherence and effectiveness of operational activities at the country level. A comprehensive management and work plan had also been developed in consultation with the organizations of the United Nations system.

5. In implementing resolution 47/199, a comprehensive approach was needed that recognized the link between its provisions and those of resolution 44/211, and every effort was being made to achieve that end.

6. Mr. MARENGO (Observer for Seychelles) said that many of the most pressing problems facing humanity were a result of social, political and economic factors beyond the control of individual countries. There was a growing recognition of the need for change and many countries, including his own, had introduced policies more conducive to foreign direct investment, together with growing transparency and liberalization. Yet the prospects for a new era of prosperity and global cooperation remained remote for many developing countries.

7. However, the developing countries could escape from their predicament if the necessary assistance was forthcoming. The structural economic reforms needed for sustainable development had in many cases been introduced and the vital importance of regional and subregional integration had been recognized. In that connection, his country had recently acceded to the Treaty for the establishment of the preferential trade area for Eastern and Southern African States and intended to play an active role in the negotiations to establish a common market among those States.

8. However, development was not just a matter of sound and effective government economic policies, but was also dependent on the building of national capacities and the increased participation of all citizens in political and economic processes. With that in view, his own Government had initiated a bold process of economic and political reforms at all levels of society. The most dramatic aspect of those reforms had been the decision in late 1991 to move away from a State-dominated system, towards a pluralistic multi-party one, combined with measures to liberalize the economy. The approach adopted had been innovative and unique, especially with regard to the level of popular participation in the constitutional process. Since a new constitution was clearly needed, the people of the Seychelles had been asked to elect a

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(Mr. Marengo, Observer, Seychelles)

commission to draw up a new constitution. The latter had been put to a referendum in November 1992 but had failed to secure the required 60 per cent majority of the vote. It was decided that the second constitutional commission should be more transparent and open to contributions from the people in order to build a truly national consensus and the Commission's proceedings which were conducted entirely in the national language, Creole were therefore broadcast on radio and television. Submissions were invited from members of the public, church leaders and representatives of minority political parties and every effort was made to ensure that all possible opinions could be taken into account. The resulting document would soon be put to a national referendum and he was confident that the new constitution would provide a sound basis for building on the country's achievements in the social and economic fields, by ensuring a stable and favourable climate for increased domestic and foreign investment and economic diversification.

9. His country's experience could serve as a valuable example and even an inspiration to other countries. A video presentation had been commissioned and would be submitted to UNDP for distribution. That initiative was in line with his country's commitment to promoting the sharing of experience among developing countries, as exemplified by the fact that 10 per cent of its current indicative planning figure had been allocated to the promotion of technical cooperation among developing countries.

10. Nevertheless, the reforms in his country would continue to require assistance if stability was to be maintained and enhanced. International financial institutions should take into account the social needs of developing countries, since the only way to guarantee economic and political stability was to eradicate poverty and enhance the quality of life.

11. His Government fully agreed with UNDP on the importance of the general issues of governance and economic liberalization and hoped that UNDP and the donor community at large would support its own efforts in that area. Although the assistance it received under the country programme was relatively small, it was highly valued, particularly the contribution towards institution-building and the strengthening of national capacities. UNDP and the United Nations development system in general should play an even more active role in promoting and supporting reform, through increased provision of technical assistance for training and human resource development, consultative and advisory services, research, and information on foreign investment. In addition, monitoring reports on financial flows to developing countries should be instituted on a regular basis, with a view to increasing such flows. It was also important to focus on the specific circumstances of each country. It should be remembered that needs were often urgent, requiring immediate action rather than words and he expressed concern at delays in project implementation and of the unnecessary time and money wasted on seemingly irrelevant studies.

12. Mr. CART (Switzerland) said that the Human Development Report 1993 constituted a major contribution and posed several questions regarding UNDP's future role. It was important to determine how UNDP could contribute to creating a climate that was favourable to the implementation of know-how, in particular by the poorer segments of the population. Another area that should

be explored was how UNDP efforts to improve management capacities could help recipient countries to choose internationally competitive strategies and technologies that would best ensure sustainable development and create jobs. UNDP had moved from a project approach to one that sought to concentrate on priority goals, according to the specific needs of each country, in particular strengthening management capacities and promoting the role of women in development. That new approach should result in development programmes that were prepared by recipient countries themselves, and it required UNDP to adapt its relationship with the specialized agencies that provided operational support. The ultimate goal, however, remained the same, namely, each country must take charge of its own development, while UNDP continued to provide support and overall coordination.

13. Many new challenges had arisen, helping to create a climate of uncertainty with regard to UNDP's future role. Moreover, these challenges had appeared at a time when donor countries were experiencing an acute economic recession and being forced to reduce their development assistance budgets. Consensus needed to be reached in several areas. Firstly, UNDP's unique and central role in, inter alia, maintaining an ongoing dialogue with developing countries should be affirmed. Secondly, its role as local coordinator for the United Nations system as a whole should be reinforced in order to enhance the system's efficiency. Thirdly, it should be recognized that UNDP needed regular and predictable financing over several years if it was to effectively meet its goals. Finally, a more effective governance system should be set up, in the form of a Council, of no more than 30 members, that would meet more often and be more specialized in development and cooperation. In order to ensure that all countries were represented fairly, in might be possible, within regional groups, to set up a rotation system of representation among countries sharing similar views. General meetings, which all countries would be invited to attend, could be held periodically to discuss fundamental issues of general interest.

14. Mr. CHEN Jian (China) said that UNDP should play an important role in establishing a new international economic order based on equality and mutual benefit. His delegation supported the view expressed in the Annual Report of the Administrator for 1992 (DP/1993/11) that international economic and technical cooperation should be aimed at the development priorities of recipient countries in order to obtain maximum results.

15. Capacity 21 was a major capacity-building programme to support recipient countries in their implementation of Agenda 21. UNDP should incorporate its support activities for environmental protection and development under Capacity 21 into the various country programmes. He appealed to the developed countries to make generous financial contributions to Capacity 21. UNDP should help raise the professional level of managerial personnel of the recipient countries, especially in the area of finance. UNDP should adjust the relevant rules and regulations and adopt corresponding measures to encourage national execution. The technical advantages and expertise of specialized agencies should be brought into full play. Country programmes should be formulated on a case-by-case basis, according to the conditions of the recipient countries, to avoid delays resulting from undue emphasis on the programme approach. It was

(Mr. Chen Jian, China)

hoped that UNDP would draw up clear guidelines for the programme approach and simplify programme approval procedures.

16. UNDP should also adopt measures to strengthen technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC), improve the mechanisms for exchange of information and provide more financial resources for project implementation. His Government would continue to explore new channels for cooperation and hoped that the international financial institutions and developed countries would give more substantial support to TCDC activities.

17. Development assistance was aimed at enhancing the capabilities for self-reliance of recipient countries and should be provided without any political conditions. Two factors, namely per capita GNP and population, which reflected the common interest of developing nations, should be maintained as the fundamental criteria for distribution of assistance. Priority should be given to low-income countries, especially the least developed countries and those encountering difficult conditions in development. UNDP should develop new channels for resources so that the interests of the traditional recipient countries would not be affected.

18. Mr. PAENIU (Tuvalu) expressed appreciation for UNDP's assistance to the development efforts of Tuvalu and of the Pacific region as a whole. In view of the significant decrease in resources available under the fifth cycle, he expressed the hope that donor partners would fulfil their financial pledges to UNDP as early as possible. He also hoped that the impact of financial cuts in UNDP's budget would be shared equally by all regions.

19. On the issue of environment and development, Tuvalu had benefited from UNDP's comprehensive environmental programme under the national environmental management strategy project. It would soon benefit from the UNDP-funded bio-diversity programme too. The lack of financial commitment to the Global Environment Facility was disappointing; the Council must work harder to secure donor pledges if UNDP was to fully achieve the objectives of the Facility.

20. The climate change phenomenon was already causing great difficulties for the inhabitants of small low-lying island nations. Perhaps because climate change did not cause immediate alarm to the inhabitants of the industrialized world, their Governments and multinational companies did not feel the need to take action. A discouraging inertia had built up in the developed countries on the environment and development issue.

21. Sustainable development and environmental security were matters of survival in Tuvalu. After exhaustive scientific work by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), very little pragmatic commitment had emerged towards reducing global warming and continued profligate use of fossil fuels by developed nations was boosting the greenhouse effect. The average rate of sea-level rise, according to IPCC, was likely to be 3 to 10 cm per decade, which created an alarming threat to the islands since they were no higher than 2 metres above sea level. It had taken Tuvalu four years to rebuild following cyclone Ofa, in 1990 and the work had still not been completed. Many government research centres in the developed world were of the view that environmental

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(Mr. Paeniu, Tuvalu)

degradation was only going to get worse unless greenhouse gas emissions were cut. Scientists who said otherwise were generally those who had close links with the oil companies and other fossil fuel interests.

22. A further problem was that the insurance industry, so central to the economic development of the islands, was increasingly reluctant to provide insurance in view of the negative correlation between development and climate change catastrophes. The impact on island nations heavily dependent on tourism was appalling. In Tuvalu, tourism was one of the few potential sources of development in the twenty-first century. Climate change posed a threat to the sustainability of the trillion-dollar insurance industry, and therefore to the economies of industrialized countries themselves.

23. Tuvalu had consistently called for the cooperation of the industrialized nations in combating global warming. At the second World Climate Conference in 1990, he had warned that the agreements reached were too weak and that science was being ignored, and had pointed to the injustice of small island nations having to face physical and cultural extinction through no fault of their own. At the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, many island nations had expressed deep disappointment at the watering down of the climate convention.

24. He appealed to industrialized nations and in particular, called on the heads of State of the seven major industrialized countries to take positive action at their forthcoming summit in Tokyo to cut greenhouse gas emissions. Climate change posed a threat to all human beings on earth and time was running out.

25. Mr. BLANK (Germany) fully associated his delegation with the statement made by the representative of Denmark on behalf of the member States of the European Community.

26. A key element in the world was the new shift towards market economies. His delegation was convinced that market economies could contribute to an increase in human welfare. Market economies incorporated the decentralization of economic and social decisions and activities and could only function within a stable macroeconomic framework. Development cooperation should therefore be geared to building up capacities in the developing countries so that people would be able to participate fully in market economies; that meant better education and training, a more rational distribution of production facilities, and management development, which was of the utmost importance.

27. He commended the Human Development Report, 1993, for its coverage of broad problems, for example in Germany. The report did not shy away from describing circumstances which were normally taboo in international discussion.

28. Development cooperation, particularly technical assistance, was one of the most important fields of action of the United Nations system. Long-term development perspectives resulting from the close North-South policy dialogue were a stable and important factor for peace-keeping in the world. In the industrialized countries, it was important to strengthen awareness of the high

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(Mr. Blank, Germany)

priority of development policies; the future of those countries was inextricably linked with the problems of the developing countries.

29. On the question of the future role of UNDP, if UNDP was not able either to implement or to finance an overall interdependent goal of development, it must focus on crucial aspects. Poverty alleviation strategies should be the centre of all development efforts. They should cover education, including basic education, and primary health care. In that process, grass-roots activities and NGO involvement had a key role to play. It was also necessary to determine what kind of contribution UNDP would make to structural adjustment processes, which were increasingly a prerequisite for a new development strategy and flow of resources. UNDP should strengthen the capacities of developing countries to define the goals and design of the structural adjustment process and ensure that the social dimension of the process was funded on a realistic basis.

30. The world-wide economic recession made the discussion of the rational and optimal use of scarce financial resources all the more urgent. The Council could consider whether country programming on the basis of indicative planning figures was still an adequate method.

31. On the question of project and programme implementation, he noted that decentralization required a strong backstopping system. In that context, regional integration and cooperation could be important as a linkage between regional programme activities and a decentralized structure.

32. Capacity-building in the developing countries was a prerequisite for strengthening the absorptive capacity of those countries and independent decision-making. Germany was prepared to disburse DM 10 million in 1993 to help finance Capacity 21; however, it had yet to convince the relevant parliamentary committee that there was fair burden-sharing with other major donors.

33. Mr. JASINSKI (Poland) said that the question of people's participation in development should be considered in a broad sense. Increased material or financial support from both donor and recipient countries was essential, but was not the only condition for a successful partnership. All countries must face up to the challenges and opportunities brought around in the post-cold-war era so that they could all share in the achievements which would undoubtedly come from their united efforts and would benefit all groups of countries and all strata of society.

34. Poland was grateful to the Administrator that he had lost no time in helping define the role of UNDP in Poland and other countries in Eastern and Central Europe in the painful but promising transition process. It should be remembered that a 4 per cent increase in GDP in that region translated into a 1 per cent increase for the entire globe. Efforts must be made to help those people achieve and sustain a growth rate of 4 per cent or more. The current fall in production and related economic activity in the region was one reason for the economic stagnation affecting the entire world.

35. His delegation hoped that the materials provided for the session would be used fully at the country and local levels in order to facilitate the genuine

(Mr. Jasinski, Poland)

participation of the people in the development process from the grass roots to the highest levels. An international conference on Poland's experience in technical cooperation, organized by UNDP in September 1992, in which delegations from the Baltic countries and the Commonwealth of Independent States had taken part along with the donor community, Polish institutions and UNDP staff, had had a favourable outcome. Poland was ready to continue sharing its experience in development and transition with interested countries. Unfortunately, in 1992 there had been an appreciable drop in the use of its experts and training facilities by the United Nations system; Poland hoped that its offer of cooperation would be fully used in future. It also hoped to speed the implementation rate of its country programme, which contained many innovative features and counted on closer involvement from United Nations agencies and donor countries. Poland would also be interested in speeding up the rate of implementation of the regional programme for Europe.

36. Poland welcomed UNDP's involvement in the implementation of decisions taken at the Rio Conference and in the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations. It looked forward to cooperating closely with UNDP, the World Bank and UNEP within the Global Environment Facility, as well as Capacity 21. Much remained to be done to rehabilitate the environment in Europe and to stop further deterioration in the Baltic area.

37. There were still many untapped reserves at the national, regional and interregional levels which could be put to constructive use for international technical cooperation provided that the participatory role of partners in development was constantly reviewed and updated. Poland looked forward to working closely with UNDP in devising new modalities in that regard. The network of UNDP offices could be used more fully to share experiences in such new ventures. That would contribute to a more efficient use of scarce resources and would attract new partners for such cooperation. Poland noted with satisfaction the increased cooperation of major donors in the form of cost-sharing in major programmes.

The meeting rose at 5.10 p.m.

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Fortieth session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 18th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Tuesday, 8 June 1993, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. HADID (Algeria)

CONTENTS

Annual report of the Administrator for 1992 and programme-level activities (continued)

(a) Environment and development (continued)

(c) Women in development (continued))

(d) Regional economic integration (continued)

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CONTENTS (continued)

(e) Non-governmental and grass-roots organizations (*continued*)

(f) Management Development Programme (*continued*)

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATOR FOR 1992 AND PROGRAMME-LEVEL ACTIVITIES (*continued*) (DP/1993/10 and Add.1-5)

(a) ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT (*continued*) (DP/1993/11)

(c) WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT (*continued*) (DP/1993/13)

(d) REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION (*continued*) (DP/1993/14)

(e) NON-GOVERNMENTAL AND GRASS-ROOTS ORGANIZATIONS (*continued*) (DP/1993/15)

(f) MANAGEMENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (*continued*) (DP/1993/16)

1. *Mr. BORJA DE MOZOTA* (France) said that the principal role of UNDP continued to be that of an organ for financing technical cooperation and an essential instrument of coordination. Its identity should therefore be preserved in the current restructuring exercise, especially since its undeniable comparative advantages of extensive field representation and an integrated and multidisciplinary approach to economic cooperation made it particularly well suited to channelling resources to more than 100 developing countries and executing many thousands of projects. The role of UNDP was unique in that, unlike other multilateral and bilateral institutions, it permitted all States concerned to participate more directly in the definition of their needs and objectives. It also had the capacity to take operational risks in the most diverse regions, including the most disadvantaged. Such a vital institution should therefore be retained within the United Nations system in order to pursue multisectoral cooperation covering the various aspects of technical assistance.

2. In view of the need to concentrate scarce resources on priority projects in certain geographic areas, the least developed countries had rightly been the focus of attention from UNDP, with over 60 per cent of available funds allocated to them in the current programming cycle. That trend should be further consolidated with the re-focusing of the mandate of UNDP on strengthening national capacities and developing human resources, particularly in the least developed, low-income and newly independent countries.

3. Current criteria for resource allocation should serve to channel the efforts of UNDP into those countries, especially the least developed countries of Africa, that were outside the framework of regional economic integration groupings. Despite the current reorganization, therefore, UNDP should maintain the human and financial resources necessary to implement its policy in favour of the least developed countries.

4. States Members of the Organization were unanimously agreed on the need for greater coherence in the development activities of the United Nations. Such coherence required the definition of a single country strategy for United Nations agencies, leading to the adoption of a single programme for each country, and the coordination of development activities in the field by a single United Nations representative, supported by a network of field staff.

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(Mr. Borja de Mozota, France)

5. Only UNDP was currently in a position to fulfil those two requirements even though it might not be able to assume direct responsibility for the coordination of all operational activities. Such a decision must be made by the Economic and Social Council, which alone could define the general orientations of United Nations development policies and impose them, not only on funds and programmes but also on the specialized agencies. Any new coordinating mechanism must, however, rely on the experience and human resources of UNDP, which was likely to provide most of the United Nations resident coordinators, at least in the early stages.

6. Some countries had expressed reservations about strengthening coordination through UNDP on the grounds that it could violate the national sovereignty of the receiving State. It should thus be made very clear that national authorities had sole responsibility for a country's economic and social development strategy and that the resident coordinator's role was to assist the Government of the host country in defining the programme of cooperation with the United Nations by drawing attention to the possible incompatibility between the interventions of different international institutions, both within the United Nations system and outside. It should also be pointed out that UNDP could only play its role by becoming the spokesman of choice in the receiving country for the United Nations system as a whole. That meant that UNDP should have the necessary authority vis-à-vis the representatives of other United Nations institutions and, consequently, that its mandate should be strengthened in that respect.

7. UNDP should limit its activities to its particular field of expertise, which was the strengthening of national capacities and the development of human resources. Its current activities in those areas should be the focus of not only UNDP programmes but also United Nations programmes, with UNDP serving as the main provider of services and centralizing the information required by the receiving States. At the same time, UNDP should continue to promote national execution and to participate actively in the search for a common interpretation of that concept, as called for in General Assembly resolution 47/199.

8. The two key approaches to strengthening national capacities must be the pursuit of human development and lasting development. Human development was a new concept in the study of the evolution of economic development and its integration into national planning could not be achieved if UNDP did not first gain the confidence of Governments within a framework of respect for their objectives and constraints.

9. Agenda 21 had assigned a vital role to UNDP in the coordination of United Nations efforts to strengthen national capacities in the area of sustainable development. As a close collaborator with the United Nations Environment Fund, UNDP was strategically placed to design projects of global scope. Moreover, with Capacity 21 it had available a useful instrument for limiting the dispersion of the resources of donors among the many institutions that were concerned with Agenda 21. That instrument should be placed in the service of the policy to be defined by the Commission on Sustainable Development and would also permit resources to be channelled to the competent funds, programmes and executing agencies.

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(Mr. Borja de Mozota, France)

10. In closing, he acknowledged the signal role of the outgoing Administrator of UNDP, Mr. William Draper, in setting for the Programme the clear objective of development with a human face.

11. Mr. LINCOLN (World Meteorological Organization (WMO)) said that regional cooperation was especially cost-effective between States with similar weather or climate characteristics. Regional activities should include regional centres to assist with weather analysis and forecasting, capacity-building activities, and climate monitoring, prediction and research. Such centres would strengthen the activities of the national meteorological and hydrological services of developing countries and should be included in national and regional development plans.

12. Following the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), it had become evident that a concerted effort was needed to meet the social, economic and political needs in order to move aggressively in coordinating efforts in climate prediction. The development of capabilities for climate prediction, including the infrastructure to support operational activities, must begin immediately in a coordinated and coherent programme. His organization already had the capacity to take the lead in developing a systematic and coordinated programme in that field. WMO and the national meteorological and hydrological services also had expertise in such areas as climate-system monitoring, climate diagnostics and climate-change detection. It was important for WMO and those services to be involved in the development of active programmes in such areas in order to contribute to sustainable development and the implementation of Agenda 21 as well as the ongoing discussion on the issue of climate change.

13. Mr. TALADRID-SUAREZ (Cuba) said that for some months donors had been asserting that UNDP could be made more effective by reducing the membership of the Governing Council. That assertion, however, had never been proved in theory or in practice throughout all the months of meetings on the question. It was clear that there was an attempt to impose on the most universal programme in the United Nations system a management mechanism that would eliminate the basic principles and objectives of UNDP: universality, neutrality, support for third-world development and voluntarism. The existence of the Programme itself was at stake.

14. His delegation was firmly opposed to such measures which would impair the democratic nature and transparency of the Council's work and inevitably lead to a deadlock. As the Administrator had pointed out, UNDP should never lose the support of the developing countries, which was based on the Programme's multinational makeup and the full participation of those countries in administering UNDP. Nor should the Council allow itself to be led blindly by the donors. His delegation categorically rejected the proposal to reduce the membership of the Council because the Programme could not be managed by a small group of Member States, however powerful some of them might be. Lastly, he expressed satisfaction with the work being carried out by the United Nations Volunteers and confirmed Cuba's decision to increase further its cooperation with that organization.

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15. Mr. MUSHAYAKARARA (Zimbabwe) said that external cooperation should be based on national goals and priorities and should be used to fill the resource gap. Development assistance must be responsive and relevant to developing countries' needs and goals. The whole issue of development cooperation should be based on the premise that priorities were country-specific. National capacity-building was a prerequisite for long-term development and sustainability and required technical assistance.

16. Coordination was central to cooperation between donor and recipient countries with regard to both resource mobilization and policy review in order to avoid duplication of effort and enhance accountability. The importance of improved coordination and cooperation among participating agencies within the overall framework of Government institutional structures must be stressed. Zimbabwe's third country programme combined both the programme approach and national execution as modalities for implementation. National execution was a flexible method of implementation and fostered a sense of ownership of the Programme and its long-term sustainability.

17. One of the greatest challenges emerging from the agreements reached at the Rio Conference, particularly Agenda 21, was the task of reconciling the ever-growing needs of mankind and the impact of those needs on the environment. Agenda 21 was the centre-piece of international cooperation and coordination in the quest for sustainable development. Accordingly, he commended UNDP for launching Capacity 21 and the donors that had contributed to it.

18. As a follow-up to UNCED and with the support of UNDP, his Government had held a national conference in November 1992, which had brought together many sectors of the populations to establish priorities for sustainable development in Zimbabwe and identify strategies and actions to be implemented at the national level within the framework of Agenda 21. Zimbabwe was currently engaged in a dialogue with bilateral donors to secure additional resources and other forms of assistance for implementing various priority activities. While the option of cost-sharing was all the more pertinent at a time of restricted resources, multilateral coordination and cooperation should take place at the operational level, not at the policy level. UNDP and the other multilateral organizations should maintain their distinct mandates and avoid duplication as much as possible.

19. His delegation noted with appreciation the role played by the Programme in countries that were undergoing unprecedented political, economic and social transformations. In Africa, a number of countries had been assisted by the Programme in their electoral reforms. The impartial role played by UNDP was a catalyst for the smooth transfer of power and political stability. Zimbabwe urged the Programme to continue its efforts in the field of electoral assistance and trusted that that would be done with the express consent of the countries concerned. Since 1990, his Government had put renewed emphasis on the role of the private sector for building capacity and enhancing competitiveness. The Zimbabwean economic reform programme was intended to bring about a market-oriented economy where market forces determined resource allocation. An extensive range of incentives had been introduced and reforms relating to trade liberalization, income, prices and labour laws had been instituted.

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(Mr. Mushayakarara, Zimbabwe)

20. While the private sector was a major engine of growth, it could function effectively only within the framework of an efficient public sector. The economic reform programme therefore aimed to create conditions promoting greater participation by the private sector in the economic development of the country with the most effective use of resources. The participation of the majority of the population was essential to achieve sustainable economic growth. Accordingly, his Government was actively pursuing policies aimed at localizing ownership of some key enterprises. The role played by UNDP in the field of relief and rehabilitation was most welcome. He hoped that the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, in conjunction with other United Nations agencies, would continue to mobilize financial and material resources and speedily facilitate their delivery to those who needed them most. His delegation expressed satisfaction with the work being done by the United Nations Volunteers in Zimbabwe, which had been very successful in the area of rural development and was targeted mostly at vulnerable groups.

21. His Government regarded the AIDS pandemic as a major social and economic problem with adverse implications for development. It had therefore set up the institutional machinery to coordinate all initiatives to combat the scourge and, in that connection, welcomed the supportive role played by the international community. National efforts included an AIDS awareness campaign, and rehabilitating, counselling and improving the health habits of those affected. His Government was grateful to UNICEF and to the many other organizations and individuals who had provided advisory services and financial and material resources.

22. Zimbabwe had noted with great concern the continual decline, in real terms, of official development assistance at a time of growing demand in the recipient countries. It was also troubled by the large reduction in the overall contributions to the core budget of UNDP, a situation which had jeopardized the ability of UNDP to meet its targeted level of resources for planned and ongoing programmes. He wished to appealed to donor Governments to make every effort to ensure that the growth targets for contributions established for the fifth programming cycle were met.

23. Africa was mired in a critical economic situation. The United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (UNPAAERD), 1986-1990, had been meant to put Africa on the path to economic recovery and sustained growth. At its final review and appraisal in 1991, however, it was evident that the continent's economic crisis had deepened and that a great deal had to be done by both the Africans themselves and the rest of the international community.

24. The adoption in 1991 of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s was a renewal by the international community and the African countries of their commitment to an agenda of cooperation for sustainable social and economic development in the continent. Many African countries had embarked on an unprecedented path of democratization and popular participation while others were undertaking painful but courageous economic reform programmes to create an enabling environment for investment and

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(Mr. Mushayakarara, Zimbabwe)

sustainable human development. Such reforms weighed heavily on national budgets and failure to fulfil their goals and objectives could well lead to social upheavals and economic breakdown.

25. The debt problem that beset most of the countries in sub-Saharan Africa constituted a further obstacle to change and efforts at economic reform were doomed to failure if a permanent solution to the debt problem was not found.

26. The New Agenda had to be supported in a tangible manner by increasing resource flows in the form of official development assistance, foreign direct investment, debt relief and increased external assistance. Africa had the will and economic potential to succeed and, given its generally weak economic base, particularly its physical infrastructure and human resource development, it deserved the special attention of the international community. The developed countries, in particular, should open up their markets to the continent's commodities.

27. His delegation welcomed the commitment of UNDP to continued support for capacity-building, which was essential for the achievement of economic growth and long-term sustainable development. The African Capacity-building Initiative, however, had taken off to a slow start and UNDP and other sponsors should expedite the development and implementation of the tangible objectives of the initiative. Zimbabwe believed that the expressions of goodwill and constructive criticism from the developed countries must be accompanied by concrete action if the developing countries were to surmount the challenges which they faced. He hoped that the donor countries would reappraise their development assistance with a view to fully addressing those challenges.

28. Mr. LUEDIG (Observer for Estonia) said that, at the current session of the Governing Council, his delegation would focus on the development of a useful working relationship with UNDP. Estonia welcomed the formal establishment of a UNDP presence. The concerns that it faced were real and not defined by the country's geographic situation but rather by the needs of individuals.

29. His country's economy was undergoing an unprecedented transition from a centrally planned to a market economy and the great challenge was how to manage that change. In that connection, Estonia looked forward to the cooperation of UNDP as a partner in the process of learning. Expertise was needed to ensure the proper functioning of the political, economic and administrative systems already in place. Policy, structural and institutional changes were taking place in Estonia, sometimes without a clear understanding of the values and long-term consequences inherent in some of the choices being made. Aid and technical cooperation and the articulation and implementation of programmes and projects to build capacities for local and national execution were critically needed to ensure that potentially disastrous choices were avoided.

30. Estonia looked forward to the joint development and eventual local execution of a number of programmes and specific projects which were being discussed with UNDP and other United Nations agencies. At a time when it was trying to shake off the deadening inertia of self-serving individual and political activities, the presence of a UNDP resident representative was yet

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(Mr. Luedig, Observer, Estonia)

another sign that Estonia's forced isolation had ended. The discussions between Estonia and UNDP had focused on the latter's comparative advantages in Estonia.

31. The limited financial resources available to UNDP and other agencies meant that greater creativity was needed in the development and management of programmes, projects and money. Estonia would welcome innovative approaches that were measured in terms of results. Despite the economic difficulties facing the country, the Government had allocated funds to support the UNDP presence there. When programming began and projects were implemented, national contributions and new financial mechanisms would be assessed. In the meantime, sufficient funding for projects was already an integral part of the joint planning process.

32. Estonia did not foresee the need for an open-ended UNDP presence. It hoped that the UNDP legacy there would be a systemic approach to sustainable development and looked forward to the establishment of mechanisms that would embody the values of sustainable development. The peaceful transformation process under way in Estonia was threatened by the presence of foreign troops and unfounded accusations of human rights abuses. With nurturing now, rather than later, by organizations like UNDP, Estonia would rebuild independent institutions and implement procedures that would permit the quick healing of its economy and social structure and their reintegration into the international mainstream.

33. His delegation hoped that the Governing Council would give a clear mandate of support for all the central and eastern European resident representatives and would dispel the uncertainty over whether central and eastern European countries were to be dealt with as unequal or unwelcome members of UNDP. Estonia held to the ideal of universality.

34. In closing, he thanked the outgoing Administrator, Mr. William Draper whose work on behalf of UNDP permitted Estonia to face the future with a sense of optimism.

35. Mr. ISAKOV (Russian Federation) commended the activities carried out by the Programme over the past year and agreed with the views set forth in the annual report of the Administrator concerning future activities. At the current time, Russia was consistently carrying out complex and difficult economic reforms aimed at harnessing the great potential of the country's human and material resources. The results of the referendum held in April demonstrated that in spite of all the difficulties, the majority of the population supported the reforms being undertaken. At the current time, the radical reform course was focusing on intensive privatization, which already encompassed most small and medium-sized enterprises and was increasingly being introduced in large-scale ones. Accordingly, Russia was taking a decisive step towards an open economy and a democratic society.

36. Like other recipient countries, Russia hoped to avail itself of the necessary technical assistance in priority fields, particularly those related to the establishment and improvement of a market-economy infrastructure, privatization and support for small and medium-sized businesses, social protection measures, management training and enhanced functioning of the State

(Mr. Isakov, Russian Federation)

apparatus at all levels. His country was particularly interested in utilizing the Programme's experience in attracting foreign investment. The current situation in that regard in Russia was unsatisfactory and his Government was making a major effort to bring about economic and political stability to encourage such investment.

37. The forthcoming conclusion of an agreement on the establishment of an integrated United Nations office in Moscow and an agreement on UNDP technical assistance to Russia were of exceptional importance in order to expand cooperation between his country and the Programme. In view of Russia's extremely small IPF, he stressed the need to make use of the most effective modalities, including the so-called multiplication effect. Involvement on the part of UNDP, together with other organizations and the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, in the execution of the UNESCO-Chernobyl project would serve as a good example of an integrated approach to providing assistance to Russia and the other CIS countries. Russia intended to continue to provide technical assistance through the Programme to developing countries within the framework of available resources. Russian organizations were prepared to play a more active role as contractors in executing UNDP projects. Lastly, his delegation shared the regret expressed by the Administrator concerning the reduction in contributions to the UNDP budget in 1993 and fully supported his call for increased financing, inter alia, through the financial rationalization of activities and stepped up efforts to attract additional funds.

38. Mr. MATHIESEN (Norway) said that the new political situation after the end of the cold war had created new opportunities for reassessment of socio-economic development. The diminution of ideological conflicts was likely to lead to greater emphasis on the underlying causes of most political conflicts, namely, the lack of social justice and opportunities for ordinary people to participate in the development process. Peaceful, sustainable and democratic development in the world could only be achieved by solving the problem of poverty.

39. Norwegian development cooperation had always been directed towards the poorest sectors of the population of the developing countries. However, the widening gap between the countries of the North and South had led to a certain aid fatigue. There was therefore an increased need for a more cost-effective and target-oriented approach to publicly-funded technical cooperation.

40. The basis for Norwegian support to UNDP over the years had been the position of UNDP as the central funding and coordination body for operational activities within the United Nations system. The Programme, however, had never been given the resources it required to adequately play that role within the United Nations system. Increasingly, resources were being channelled directly to the specialized agencies and to other United Nations funds and programmes. More resources were also being mobilized for short-term emergency and refugee-related assistance.

41. Multilateral agencies had not focused properly on the major development policy issues and UNDP should therefore make better use of its comparative advantages by moving away from the administration of numerous small development projects and focusing instead on capacity-building in central policy areas.

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(Mr. Mathiesen, Norway)

42. One of the comparative advantages of UNDP was the multisectoral nature of its technical cooperation and its holistic approach to development issues. The Programme should therefore formulate a clearer vision of main development issues and a clearer strategy for its own role as provider of technical assistance. In addition, its field network gave UNDP a central role in United Nations cooperation activities and a presence at the country level.

43. On the subject of coordination, the current political situation underlined the need for a coordinated approach by the United Nations, an area in which UNDP could play a central role, provided that role was given more substance and the task more clearly defined. UNDP resident representatives, in their capacity as United Nations resident representative coordinators, must be given clear authority for the execution of their task and greater resources in terms of personnel and finance. Norway supported the proposal by UNDP to undertake a study of the Programme's coordinating role at the field level. That role would also be influenced by the final outcome of the process of reform of the Organization and by the follow-up to the 1993 triennial review of United Nations operational activities.

44. As for funding, UNDP was facing severe financial constraints and there was an obvious need for more burden sharing and more stable resources for its work.

45. Many positive changes had taken place in recent years which would strengthen the development profile of UNDP. The country programmes for the fifth cycle had demonstrated an increased concentration of UNDP resources in areas in which UNDP had a comparative advantage. That strategic approach to development activities should be further refined and more emphasis placed on evaluation and on the development of procedures for more systematic feedback of the results of past experiences. In addition, the personnel policies of UNDP should reflect the changing character of its operations. Recruitment should be based more on substantive development experience and greater opportunities for staff training and refresher courses should be provided.

46. The Programme's annual Human Development Report and its book on rethinking technical cooperation in Africa had given it a more central role in the development debate. Norway supported those initiatives and hoped that UNDP would continue to provide analytical contributions to the international development debate.

47. National capacity-building was one of the key elements in the future role of UNDP. Further discussion was needed, however, on which specific areas of national capacity-building attention should be focused. Poverty alleviation and sustainable human development were broad thematic areas in which the future strategies of UNDP could be more clearly defined, with special attention being paid to support for democratization processes and the creation of opportunities for broader popular participation. Special measures should also be taken to ensure that women's concerns were adequately reflected.

48. On the subject of allocation of financial resources, Norway considered that the grant funding being made available through UNDP should be concentrated mainly on the poorest countries. The current IPF system needed to be reviewed and new mechanisms for resource allocation were required to ensure greater

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(Mr. Mathiesen, Norway)

flexibility and increased possibilities for UNDP to respond more adequately to the needs of the developing countries, and especially those of sub-Saharan Africa.

49. He concluded by expressing his Government's deep appreciation to the outgoing Administrator, Mr. William Draper, for his invaluable contribution to UNDP during his term of office.

50. Mr. PEERTHUM (Mauritius) paid tribute to the outgoing Administrator during whose tenure UNDP had gained renewed dynamism and an innovative spirit, which placed it at the forefront of current efforts in pursuit of global development. The importance that Mauritius attached to its cooperation with UNDP was reflected in its latest national development plan, which addressed several of the issues related to the implementation of Agenda 21. UNDP had an important role to play at the country level in the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the Capacity 21 initiative was a useful step in that direction, particularly at a time when programme operations were likely to be affected by insufficient resources. In that connection, it was time to explore the possibility of tapping private resources.

51. He drew attention to the active role being played by a number of small-island States, under the aegis of the Alliance of Small-Island States (AOSIS), in the preparation for the global conference for the sustainable development of small-island States, to be held in Barbados in 1994. That Conference would present the first real opportunity to translate into action the recommendations of Agenda 21 and his delegation was heartened by the response and participation of United Nations agencies in its preparatory process. UNDP, with its blend of expertise and global connections, was expected to be closely involved in the follow-up phase.

52. The current planning for Mauritius under the fifth programming cycle was also illustrative of the catalytic importance of a relatively small programme which succeeded in mobilizing resources and financial support in strategic areas and in contributing, through a flexible approach, to capacity-building for sustainable development by initiating a comprehensive programme of action in such areas as human resource development, education and the environment.

53. Mauritius had reached a critical stage in its development in which policies were needed to enhance the environmental and social impact of economic growth. Given the limits for growth of a small island and its fragile ecosystem, improvements in productivity and the quality of human capital, particularly in the case of women, were essential to Mauritius' future in an increasingly uncertain international economic environment.

54. In addition to human resources development, the Government was investigating other avenues for cooperation with UNDP, such as long-term planning, and policy formulation and analysis. One example of the long-term perspective the Government had taken was a proposal for subregional economic integration in southern and Eastern Africa which the Government was exploring. He looked forward to further cooperation with UNDP as the integration plan moved forward in the years to come.

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55. Mr. RUKIKAIRE (Uganda) praised the outgoing UNDP Administrator for taking a people-oriented approach to development during his seven-year tenure. As the Human Development Report had noted, development was a process that started and ended with people and not with States.

56. He expressed disappointment in the Council's decision to reduce the fifth cycle IPF for Uganda by 25 per cent in comparison with the fourth-cycle level. That level of financing would not be sufficient for Uganda to meet its development targets. Moreover, the reduction could adversely affect UNDP's role in assisting countries like Uganda in programme implementation, since it affected the national capacity to absorb and retain newly transferred skills, technology and infrastructure that were essential for other kinds of external cooperation. He appealed to his country's development partners to increase their contributions in order to prevent Uganda from falling short of its goals.

57. He thanked the Assistant Administrator and Director of the Regional Bureau for Africa for her detailed report on the economic situation in Africa. In particular, he supported her appeal to the donor countries and to the United Nations system for increased financial support at a critical stage in Africa's economic and social transformation.

58. Notable progress was being made in the transition from centrally planned economies in Africa. What the continent needed at the moment were investment incentives of the kind being offered to other reforming countries in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. Africa would not be able to grow without major investments in human resources and institutional capacity-building of the kind provided by the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF). The small-scale capital assistance grant programme of UNCDF was a unique provider of resources for poverty reduction in the poorest countries. However, contributions to UNCDF had declined dramatically in recent years. Moreover, support was needed for efforts in regional integration through the regional economic organizations. UNDP had a historic responsibility to come to Africa's aid in that regard as well. Lastly, he commended Japan on its decision to host a conference on development questions pertaining to Africa in October of 1993.

59. As for the transition to a programme approach in country programmes, Uganda had incorporated, on a trial basis, the guiding principles described in the Programme Support Document (PSD). An evaluation of the effectiveness of the principles would be available for the next meeting of the Council. If the principles were found to be successful it should be possible to apply them to more countries. In addition, Uganda welcomed the establishment of the Office of Budget and Management (OBM) in UNDP. However, he believed that OBM should be subject to periodic evaluation in order to assess its performance.

60. With respect to the question of national execution, he said that the UNDP estimate of nationally executed projects in Africa was 11.5 per cent. Uganda considered that figure to be too low in view of the capacity of many institutions in Africa to promote national execution. UNDP field offices should work closely with Governments to promote that particular method of programme delivery.

61. Uganda supported the Capacity 21 initiative to integrate environmental concerns into all programmes and to enhance sustainable development. He agreed

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(Mr. Rukikaire, Uganda)

with other members that resources for the initiative should be allocated through Special Programme Resources (SPRs). Moreover, since the cut in indicative planning figure (IPF) resources would have its most adverse impact on least-development countries (LDCs), the distribution of resources to Africa under the initiative should be increased to 48 per cent. Furthermore, the evaluation of Capacity 21 should take place at the end of 1994 instead of the first quarter of 1995, in order to give countries implementing it an opportunity to identify strengths in their implementation of Agenda 21 programmes and to design solutions to any weaknesses that would be found. Sharing information on the implementation of Agenda 21 would be a critical role; therefore UNDP field offices should work in close contact with Governments to that end.

62. With respect to programmes to fight HIV/AIDS, most countries, especially the LDCs, had recognized the development implications to the matter and therefore, they supported the development of a multisectoral programme to combat the disease. He was reassured to learn that UNDP was aware of those implications and was willing to work closely with Governments in drawing up and implementing such a programme. In that connection, UNDP should work closely with the World Health Organization/Global Programme (WHO/GPA) in order to address both the public health and socio-economic consequences of the disease. His delegation supported the proposal to strengthen the office of Resident Coordinator by adding local support personnel to integrate the AIDS question into all aspects of development assistance.

63. Lastly, he urged UNDP to strengthen its support for non-governmental organizations particularly indigenous NGOs. He was gratified that there had been discussion in 1992 concerning the needs and priorities of NGOs with respect to collaboration with UNDP on implementation of Agenda 21 and he looked forward to further NGO involvement in capacity-building activities in that connection.

64. Mr. POST (Netherlands) said that it was clear that UNDP was going through a difficult period of transition in which uncertainty prevailed with respect to the role, function and position of the Programme within a restructured United Nations system.

65. After a brief review of the budgetary and institutional challenges faced by UNDP, he identified a series of restructuring steps which UNDP could consider in order to make it a more effective organization. These steps included: greater emphasis on IPF allocations to lower-income countries; thematically-organized assistance programmes; and improved field-level support.

66. With regard to specific themes mentioned in the report of the Administrator (DP/1993/11), UNDP appeared to have made progress in carrying out the mandate of Agenda 21, particularly with regard to capacity-building. In his opinion field offices played an essential role in integrating and facilitating capacity-building in country programmes. Further in that connection, he welcomed the cooperative working relationship between the World Bank and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in implementing the Capacity 21 initiative. For its part, the Netherlands was evaluating the initiatives at a very high level and a decision regarding it was expected in the near future.

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(Mr. Post, Netherlands)

67. He supported the conclusions in the Administrator's report (DP/1993/15) on the need for UNDP to do more to promote participation by NGOs and grass-roots organizations in development projects at the country level. In particular, UNDP should do its utmost to enable NGOs to participate in national consultation processes.

68. He agreed with the conclusion of the report of the Administrator (DP/1993/16) on the Management Development Programme (MDP) and the need for greater private sector involvement in the development process at the country level. Greater involvement of the private sector would require a new type of government official able to collaborate effectively with partners in the private sector. The Management Development Programme would play an important part in raising the institutional and organizational capacity at all levels of government in order to manage the execution of economic and budgetary reforms.

69. Mr. DIAZ (Observer for Venezuela), speaking also on behalf of the delegations of Argentina and Uruguay, said that regional integration among developing countries was of particular importance to his region, which had been implementing various initiatives in economic integration that had contributed to its development. Those integration processes were promoting a more efficient insertion of Latin American economies into the international economic system based on the comparative advantages of their countries and offering new opportunities for overall growth. UNDP played an important role in supporting those initiatives.

70. The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development had assigned an important role to UNDP in assisting developing countries to implement Agenda 21. The main challenge of Agenda 21 was the integration of environmental variables which required the institutions of developing countries to make a quantum leap. Capacity 21 was an effective programme method for boosting national technical capacity in support of sustainable development. It was also one of the few means of providing new and additional resources to developing countries to implement Agenda 21. For that reason, it must be carried out at the global level in order to enable all developing countries to benefit from it and it must be adequately financed.

71. Mr. BAHADIN (Brazil) said that sustainable development appeared to be the central theme of UNDP's general mandate in the post-cold war world; however, that new role should in no way be interpreted as a limitation upon the Programme's traditional role in development cooperation. Indeed, the broad experience of UNDP in multisectoral development cooperation was one of the Programme's comparative advantages over other agencies within the United Nations development system.

72. Brazil was concerned that the Administrator's report (DP/1993/10) had given too much attention to considerations concerning electoral assistance, consultations with Governments and human rights in recipient countries. While his Government thoroughly supported the activities of UNDP in those areas, he was troubled by the suggestion that those considerations could be taken as conditions for receiving other kinds of development assistance from UNDP.

(Mr. Bahadin, Brazil)

73. Brazil was also concerned that the Administrator had failed to distinguish between bilateral and multilateral sources of development assistance in his discussion of management questions and the rights of donors. While States did have a right to expect high-quality management and effective use of their resources in the context of bilateral aid, in the case of multilateral aid managers were responsible to the entire membership of the Organization, not just the donor countries.

74. The Administrator had noted rightly, in paragraph 2 of his report, that external development assistance had been freed from political constraints in the wake of the cold war. However, if the proposition set out in paragraph 14 regarding the connection between development and security was taken to its logical extreme, it would imply that there was a role for development assistance in the search for peace and security.

75. Brazil shared the concerns of some members regarding the reductions in contributions to UNDP. While he understood the constraints faced by many States in that respect, reductions in contributions were occurring at a time when the Organization was making a concerted effort to improve the governance and financial administration of its operational activities. Moreover, he was concerned that cost sharing was becoming a major source of funding for those activities; additional increases in cost-sharing funds could require further revisions in the structures of governance.

76. Mr. DANA (Gambia) reviewed the role and performance of UNDP as a catalyst for sustainable development in a period of unprecedented scarcity of human, material and financial resources.

77. The Gambia supported the recent shift from project-oriented to programme approaches in the provision of technical assistance. A programme approach made it possible to increase support for national programmes in such areas as poverty alleviation, health care, environmental protection, human development and economic and political reform.

78. Gambia's fifth country programme emphasized national execution and a participatory approach to development. The programme incorporated a capacity-building component for economic management, as well as an environmental action and an HIV/AIDS programme. In addition a poverty alleviation programme (PAP) was being prepared for submission to international development partners in the second half of 1993. On the basis of his country's experience with PAP he recommended expansion of that programme to other LDCs.

79. He recognized that there were limitations and difficulties inherent in national execution. While the burden to implement programmes fell to national Governments, there were no clear guidelines from UNDP regarding how to accomplish that task. UNDP should make every effort to improve its efficiency at the national level in order to provide more effective guidelines. It was especially important for UNDP to establish a relationship with the Bretton Woods institutions, particularly the World Bank. A mechanism should be created to enable those two development partners to collaborate effectively in the

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(Mr. Dana, Gambia)

formulation and implementation of programmes. The consequences of any failure to cooperate effectively would be borne by the LDCs.

80. Recent trends in funding and contributions to UNDP core activities were worrisome with regard to the success of the fifth programming cycle. The substantial reduction on a percentage basis of the allocation to the Regional Bureau for Africa for the fifth cycle would have an effect on the implementation of some essential programmes. Although increasing UNDP resources remained a vital priority, the Gambia believed that activities peripheral to the core concerns of UNDP (including, inter alia, poverty alleviation, capacity-building and human resource development) should be handled by other specialized agencies.

81. Mr. AWOONOR (Ghana) said that the annual report's focus on human development, capacity-building in the area of environment and leadership in managing technical cooperation eloquently expressed the important role which UNDP continued to play in the area of development.

82. The environment for technical cooperation had continued to change rapidly with a great adverse impact on developing countries especially on Africa which was undergoing radical political changes and experiencing a very serious economic downturn. Unfortunately, political advancement on the continent had not been matched by economic development. Africa's share of world trade had fallen from 3 per cent in 1960 to under 1 per cent in 1992 while the continent's economies were still reeling under a staggering debt of $280 billion at the end of 1992.

83. Africa's economic problems required a concerted action by African Governments as well as the international community, and in that regard his delegation noted with appreciation that, in the face of dwindling resources earmarked for the fifth cycle programme, UNDP was making every effort to ensure that programmes already started were not abandoned or scaled down in a way that would affect their contribution to national development efforts.

84. While the UNDP programme approach in the formulation and implementation of technical assistance coincided with the aspirations of developing countries, UNDP must consult with Governments to produce a new design for monitoring and evaluating those programmes and ensuring that they were consistent with and properly integrated into national programmes, otherwise UNDP technical assistance programmes might fail to match larger Government programmes. In the crucial area of capacity-building, indigenous national expertise and entrepreneurship should be given serious consideration otherwise the developing countries would never attain the desired level of development capacity if their local entrepreneurs, engineers and industries were denied access to development programmes designed through the instrumentality of UNDP.

85. His delegation also welcomed the Programme's new policy on decentralization of decisions to the field level which would, inter alia, ensure more dialogue with Governments and see to it that the people benefited from UNDP activities while at the same time ensuring that accountability was not sacrificed.

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(Mr. Awoonor, Ghana)

86. As the lead agency empowered to promote the development of developing countries through multilateral cooperation by implementing technical assistance programmes and human and technical capacity-building, UNDP must increasingly assume the intermediary role in the search for solutions to such nagging problems as debt, commodity prices, protectionism and transfer of technology which militated very seriously against any development efforts. Finally, if it was agreed that development was the one vital instrument for eradicating poverty and securing the peace, then it must be placed at the top of the agenda because global poverty was the most ravaging and at times relentless enemy of peace and security.

87. Mr. O'BRIEN (New Zealand) said that while the vision of the Charter still remained valid it was obviously desirable, in changing circumstances, to refocus the energies of the organizations of the United Nations system.

88. As the prospects for direct participation in UNDP management by smaller States, such as his own, might be diminished as a consequence of restructuring, it would be very important, once the restructuring was completed, for the system to demonstrate by elections, made to UNDP and other bodies, that the principle of pluralism had not been discarded.

89. UNDP should continue to be guided by the principles of participation, equity and transparency and accountability. The central purpose of development was to widen the range of people's choices. While each country had its own particular agenda, the basic principle was the same: to put people at the centre of development and to focus on their needs and potential.

90. Neutrality was also critical to the Programme's ongoing effectiveness. The role of UNDP was to act as a facilitator for nations; it could not dictate international policies on sustainable development or human rights nor could it force agreement on programmes to support them. The need for strategic choices was driven by the conundrum of greater needs and less resources. Therefore, it would be a folly to impose changes unless it was clear that they would lead to practical improvements.

91. Better-targeted UNDP intervention was the common thread of reform options put forward so far. His country's approach to those discussions would be underpinned by the conviction that UNDP reform should not be pursued at the expense of countries that continued to need United Nations development assistance. UNDP should concentrate on its role as a funding and policy organization, advising Governments on technical and development issues and assisting them in executing national development plans. Obviously, the Programme's strategy must reflect the changing nature of development.

92. His Government strongly supported efforts to ensure that UNDP took full account of Agenda 21 recommendations in setting its priorities. UNDP must reorient its country programmes to address capacity-building requirements. The broader challenge, framed at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, was merging environmental consideration into the mainstream of international policy and programme development.

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93. Mr. STADTHAGEN (Observer for Nicaragua) said that the demand for international cooperation had increased considerably in recent years. While developing countries were squarely facing the task of undertaking costly political and social reforms in order to bring about more just and dignified societies and to establish more viable economies, they recognized that they needed more resources which had become increasingly competitive. The flexibility, versatility and neutrality of UNDP were particularly valuable in that connection. UNDP involvement was often decisive in the delicate balance between success and crisis and in practice was a bridge which supported those countries as they crossed over from fragile peace to consolidating development.

94. The Programme's mandate as coordinator of the system and its technical support for processes of policy formulation made it a suitable partner for helping to implement the recommendations of Agenda 21 through Capacity 21. The multisectoral mandate of UNDP equipped it admirably to carry out that task.

95. His delegation fully shared the evaluation of the Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development that implementation of resolution 47/199 should be consistent with the provisions of resolution 44/211. It therefore welcomed efforts to put into effect the relevant provisions agreed upon at the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly. The management of cooperation for development should not be separated from primary problems such as external debt, development and transfer of technology and poverty alleviation.

96. In the efforts to restructure and reform the system and to seek new sources of funding, UNDP must be realistic and committed; it must not accept an increased demand for development assistance while its levels of resources stagnated or decreased. More demand for cooperation with fewer resources coupled with a reduction in the number of members of the Governing Council was not a workable formula.

97. His delegation was seriously concerned about the reduction of budgetary allocations which would have a serious effect on the formulation of policies and decisions of the Governing Council both in terms of their effects on programmes in the field and on the actual exercise of programming and governance. The Council must take rational and informed decisions on that matter.

98. Of particular concern was the applicability of a cut of 25 per cent in activities financed by the special resources of the programme, in particular programmes such as the special plan for cooperation with Central America.

99. He agreed with the delegation of Japan that the ultimate objective of development was the strengthening and expansion of national capacities in developing countries through sustainable human development. In that regard, the Council should consider the possibility of establishing a special facility to be used purely for strengthening national capacity by training human resources in priority areas. The strengthening of human resources was crucial to the economic growth and sustained development of all developing countries.

100. Nicaragua fully supported the efforts of UNDP to promote and strengthen emerging democracies. The absence of democratic institutions and a democratic

(Mr. Stadthagen, Observer, Nicaragua)

attitude in developing countries warranted decisive efforts to help them participate effectively in the new world order.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.

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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 19TH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Tuesday, 8 June 1993, at 3 p.m.

President:	Mr. HADID	(Algeria)
Later:	Mr. RYSINSKI (Vice-President)	(Poland)

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Annual report of the Administrator for 1992 and programme-level activities (continued)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATOR FOR 1992 AND PROGRAMME-LEVEL ACTIVITIES (continued) (DP/1993/10 and Add.1-5)

1. Mr. MERREM (Director, Division for Operational Activities and Technical Services, United Nations Drug Control Programme (UNDCP)) said that the magnitude, dynamics and complexity of the drug problem underlined the need for a comprehensive assessment of its ramifications and implications.

2. Technical consultations had recently been held in Colombia, jointly sponsored by the Government of Colombia and UNDCP, with the assistance of UNDP. In Colombia, there had been a surge of illicit poppy cultivation over the past five years, expanding to a total area of some 20,000 hectares. In an effort to diversify the supply to major markets, drug syndicates were adding heroin to the existing line of production of cocaine, using the wholesale distribution systems already in place. Illicit slash and burn cultivation, on the slopes of the Andes was encroaching on forest reserves and had affected 50,000 hectares. Over those five years, heroin abuse had become a clearly discernible phenomenon in Colombia, with some 6,000 habitual users; at least 25 per cent of domestic heroin addicts were also HIV positive.

3. World wide, there were tens of millions of habitual drug users and addicts. The global aggregate retail proceeds were in the order of $300 to $500 billion. Essential developmental and humanitarian needs could be funded if even part of the annual global proceeds from illicit drug use were used for more constructive purposes. New trafficking routes were rapidly being developed, especially through countries in Eastern Europe which were vulnerable because of economic change and disruption and the low level of preparedness of the legal sector and law enforcement machinery. In Central Asia, refugees returning to Afghanistan were cultivating poppies, and there had been major seizures in Nicaragua. In the Bahamas, the Government had earmarked 15 per cent of the national budget for drug control. The upsurge in psychotropic substances was particularly evident in several parts of Africa. At the same time, there had been a relative decline in illicit production in Bolivia and Colombia, largely because of persevering government efforts.

4. On the linkages between the drug problem and development, there was an obvious vulnerability in countries affected by civil strife and economic disruption, for example in Afghanistan and in Lebanon. A causal chain could be observed in South-East Asia and north Pakistan and in some Andean countries. Ethnic and indigenous marginality, remoteness, poverty that was often abject, and growing population pressure made illicit cultivation a plausible means of earning income because of the ease of marketing. As a consequence, major environmental degradation was being noted as a result of slash and burn cultivation by migrant farmers. Drug production represented a waste of social investment and a loss to development of potentially active population segments. For example Pakistan, with at least 2 million habitual drug abusers, was a net importer of narcotic drugs. There was a clear correlation between the proliferation of HIV/AIDS infection and drug abuse, mostly intravenous, for example in Myanmar where 50 to 80 per cent of habitual drug users were HIV

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(Mr. Merrem)

infected. The urbanization process led to an erosion of traditional family bonds and value systems and general deprivation leading to a propensity to drug abuse.

5. The global priority agenda of the next few decades must include drug abuse control. Any lasting solution required broad alliances; participative involvement, community empowerment and broad private sector and NGO involvement were as important as government resolve.

6. Action against drugs could not be designed and implemented for people but had to be carried out with people and by people. Given the global nature of the drug phenomenon, subregional cooperation was an important feature in responding to the challenges of drug abuse and illicit production.

7. UNDCP was in a state of transition. It was sharpening its focus and streamlining its operational modalities, emphasizing a three-fold function: to facilitate Governments' own action; to ensure appropriate coordination between players within and outside the United Nations system and to create a centre of expertise including an easily accessible external pool of expertise. Its annual budget was about $80 million. UNDCP enjoyed sustained donor support, but it had to optimize the use of its resources. Economies of operation were vital for achieving expanded coverage. UNDCP sought to maintain a lean structure with only 8 per cent of programme resources spent on the professional staff contingent, of whom 35 per cent were women. There was a need for greater flexibility in resource deployment in view of changing features and strategic priorities. UNDCP intended to maintain a very limited field presence and to put the emphasis on the technical-professional profile of its teams. In order to achieve a coherent programme, government masterplans would become an essential coordination and resource mobilization tool. A balanced approach was needed incorporating demand reduction, alternative development, United Nations system participation, and the establishment of effective judicial machinery. UNDCP would therefore depend on an integrated field office structure so as to be able to devote more attention to analysis, to develop compatible statistics and to have an early warning function.

8. UNDCP was pleased to note the progress made in the new working arrangements featuring the UNDP resident representatives as integrators and facilitators of the special mandates of UNDCP.

9. There was a need in major problem countries for socio-economic impact studies and a better understanding of the correlation between environmental destruction and illicit cultivation. Community-based and community propelled programmes were needed, especially in the area of demand and supply reduction; capacity-building was of the essence. The link between AIDS prevention and drug abuse prevention must be strengthened. Research, which had largely focused on the developed world, needed to concentrate much more on developing countries and on local concerns.

10. Mr. INOUE (International Labour Organisation) said that ILO fully supported the new modalities that had been introduced by UNDP in respect of operational activities. It shared the concern expressed over the sharply declining flow of resources for operational activities for development at a time when the United Nations system was expected to play an increasingly important developmental role.

11. ILO fully recognized the need for agencies to be involved in the project cycle at a very early stage so as to ensure that their technical services were fully utilized at all stages; in particular the views of the relevant agencies should be sought by UNDP resident representatives in assessing the capacity of a national entity for executing projects so as to ensure that the national entity was fully accountable. That process had not been satisfactory. On technical support services at the programme level (TSS-1), he noted that the implementation of ILO's work plan for 1992-1993 was progressing in a very satisfactory manner. An evaluation was being made of operations carried out thus far. There had been some weaknesses and constraints, including a failure to make the operations entirely demand-driven, dispersal of resources on too many small activities and a need for appropriate funding for preparatory and follow-up activities. ILO was concerned that use of technical support services at the project level (TSS-2) remained only marginal; if that situation continued, there was a risk of the entire new system being seriously undermined. Appropriate remedial action needed to be taken as soon as possible.

12. Capacity-building, and particularly human resources development, had always been a major priority of the ILO technical cooperation programme over the years. Recently the ILO Turin Training Centre had been playing a key role in the development and implementation of the training programme for the management of development. The centre was prepared to contribute actively to the implementation of the various capacity-building training programmes outlined in General Assembly resolution 47/199.

13. ILO supported the expanded concept of capacity-building to include not only governmental but also non-governmental institutions. As a tripartite organization involving Governments, employers and workers, ILO promoted the active participation of employers' and workers' organizations in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of development policies and programmes, which in turn could contribute to enhancing the sustainability of development. That process was highly relevant in the countries where democratization and economic liberalization were expected to lead to greater consultation with those organizations on economic and social options.

14. On the question of decentralization, ILO was undergoing sweeping policy changes in respect of the management of operational activities. ILO area office directors would be made fully responsible for all the operations in the countries they covered, with the technical support of 14 multidisciplinary teams which were being deployed globally. More resources would be shifted to the subregional and country levels covering area offices and multidisciplinary teams. More financial and accounting functions would be decentralized to area offices.

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15. Mr. ZIARAN (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that his delegation fully agreed with the Administrator that external cooperation should support, not be a substitute for, national goals and programmes; to that end, the existence of a national programme framework and the role of UNDP were of the utmost importance. That approach was in line with one of the paramount principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter, the right of self-determination, which included a nation's right to determine its own economic development.

16. Many initiatives should be launched to attain the goal of the integration of women in development. His delegation welcomed the availability of Special Programme Resources (SPR) for that purpose. However, the integration of women in development could not be seen in isolation from the development process as a whole. In those developing countries whose populations were faced with enormous economic problems and were striving to survive, the opportunities available to women were slim.

17. The current project approach had created an enormous amount of paperwork and long delays, thereby diminishing the system's responsiveness and flexibility. Bearing in mind the difficulties in coordinating various multisectoral projects and the need for a more flexible methodology, his delegation supported the idea of a programme approach. The use of common premises by various operational activities as well as decentralization and national execution were significant steps towards harmonization of the activities of the system and eliminated unnecessary expenditure.

18. His Government, in collaboration with UNDP and the World Bank, had prepared a project aimed at formulating a national strategy for sustainable development and introducing the relevant elements of Agenda 21 into the development planning process. So far 19 groups had been formed to join in that exercise, which had also resulted in a re-examination of national development goals and policies.

19. Given the importance of access to information, experience and participatory technology for protection of the environment, his delegation fully supported the measures taken by UNDP for the creation of Sustainable Development Networks (SDNs). It welcomed the establishment of the Regional Division for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States. At least seven members of CIS were linked through a subregional organization, the Economic Cooperation Organization, to their southern neighbours covered by the Regional Division for Asia and the Pacific. There was therefore a need for coordination and cooperation between the two divisions, particularly in regional, subregional and interregional activities. There was also an urgent need to protect the vulnerable ecosystem of the Caspian Sea, which was being threatened by overexploitation. UNDP, in collaboration with the countries of the region, should explore ways and means of protecting that environment.

20. His delegation was concerned at the pressure being put on international resources, and stressed that funding of humanitarian operations and transition from centrally planned economies to market economies in Eastern Europe should not be at the expense of development assistance to developing countries.

21. Mr. OPRONG (Observer for Kenya) said that the United Nations had long served as the battleground in the fight for ideological and military dominance; international cooperation for development had been an important weapon in that struggle. It would now resume the vital task of peace-keeping and peacemaking. Great numbers of civilian and military personnel had been deployed in conflict areas all over the world, including Europe, and humanitarian assistance had been widely distributed. But the United Nations could not afford to neglect the social and economic needs of developing countries; only a strong, self-sustaining social and economic base could guarantee lasting peace. Ways must be found to strengthen international cooperation so that those competing needs could be met.

22. In the preceding two years, African countries had embarked on radical political and economic reforms, which had badly strained available resources and personnel, with consequent social and political unrest. Since donor support had been linked to changes in the political scene, it had often failed to materialize at critical junctures. Those difficulties had been aggravated inter alia by the debt burden, the drop in export earnings and population growth. In addition, the HIV/AIDS epidemic was expected to affect millions in the 1990s unless urgent measures were taken to stem its spread. Unfortunately, the developed world had proved insensitive to the severe political and economic measures undertaken by African countries; the lack of social and infrastructure investment also constituted serious obstacles to development. His delegation contended that the international community, and in particular the developed countries, had an obligation to fulfil their commitments to meet the needs of Africa, set out in such consensus agreements as the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa, and the Second Transport and Communications Decade in Africa.

23. Current reports demonstrated that UNDP was in serious financial straits which could jeopardize its capacity to carry out its fifth cycle programmes. He appealed to donors to provide UNDP with the resources necessary to prevent the projected cuts in expenditures under the fifth cycle. For sub-Saharan Africa, the cuts would undermine ongoing efforts to support and sustain political and economic reforms. Cuts in resources for regional programmes would impede regional integration efforts, whose main objectives were the expansion and diversification of interregional trade. Africa's share of UNFPA resources had also fallen although the population was still growing rapidly - although it accounted for only 12 per cent of the world's population in 1992, that percentage was expected to rise to 19 per cent by 2025. In the light of those factors, he stressed the potentially grave consequences of reversing the development gains made by sub-Saharan Africa, and urged the Council to take decisive action to restore former resource levels.

24. His delegation supported the proposals put forth by the Director of the Regional Bureau for Africa concerning resource mobilization, structural changes and skill upgrades in the Bureau and, encouraged by the success of the Economist Programme, urged the Council to approve the proposal that the number of economist posts within the Bureau be increased to 40. Kenya was encouraged to hear that the Office of Project Services (OPS) had been relocated in the Department for Development Support and Management Services and felt that the Council's concerns about the maintenance of relations between OPS and the Council had been adequately addressed. He commended the efforts of the Nordic

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(Mr. Oprong, Observer, Kenya)

countries to improve the responsiveness of operational activities for development, through improved governance and financial predictability.

25. After briefly reviewing Kenya's economic performance since independemce, he said that UNDP projects had contributed significantly to improving the standard of living in Kenya and had greatly enhanced Kenya's institutional capacity and capabilities for economic managment. He urged the developed countries to rally round UNDP to enable it to handle its increased responsibilities.

26. Mr. OSVALD (Sweden) said that UNDP should continue to play a crucial role in the unique work of the United Nations. The crisis faced by UNDP was not purely financial; the concept of aid had come increasingly under fire and demands for efficiency, relevance and results had been growing. Questions had also arisen regarding the role of the United Nations in long-term development. The World Bank group and the regional development banks had gradually become more prominent in such development activities, and the United Nations consequently ran the risk of marginalization in the economic and social field. The increased pressure on donor countries to provide funds for emergency relief operations meant that funds for long-term development would be much harder to find. Though economic and social matters had traditionally been separate from United Nations peace-keeping efforts, they were increasingly being linked with development in the political arena. While UNDP should serve as an instrument for the pursuit of peace, democracy and development, its role and mandate should be more clearly defined. In the current development arena, competition for funds was becoming increasingly tough. In the view of Sweden, the basic concepts of central funding and system coordination were problematic. UNDP would never be the sole channel for United Nations development resources. The bulk of multilateral development funding would be handled by the World Bank and by the regional development banks. For shaping the future of development, the potential of UNDP therefore resided more in matters of policy than of funding.

27. During the 1980s, the economies of the Latin American, African and Eastern European countries had grown very little or stagnated, while many countries in South-East Asia as well as in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) had grown substantially. Policy, not the availability of resources was the decisive factor. The adoption of new development policies in many Latin American countries had led to the revitalization of their economies. More investment capital had been flowing into Latin America than official development assistance (ODA) could ever provide. The same was true for China and other growth economies in Asia. In Russia, on the other hand, unsound economic policies were driving away international capital as well as ODA. To develop policy, policy capacity must also be enhanced; insight and analysis were ultimately more important than funding and coordination.

28. A more effective system for governance and funding was a fundamental prerequisite for the development of UNDP, and he therefore commended the work of the relevant informal working group. However, reforms would be of limited value unless accompanied by leadership, vision and high quality in project and programme delivery.

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(Mr. Osvald, Sweden)

29. Comparative advantages must indeed be explored and defined if UNDP was to acquire a clear development assistance profile. One such advantage was technical assistance measures designed to promote capacity development. The UNDP-commissioned study on rethinking technical cooperation showed that experience, established models and results must be more closely evaluated if operations were to become effective. Sweden commended the advocacy role taken by UNDP, principally in such efforts as the Human Development Report, which had created a new instrument for multidimensional assessment of development, establishing UNDP as a strong, innovative voice in the development dialogue. UNDP should explore further ways to implement those recommendations in its operational activities.

30. The Nordic countries were actively participating in efforts to increase the effectiveness of United Nations emergency relief operations. UNDP had an important role to play in the follow-up of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. Through the Capacity 21 programme UNDP could develop various measures to support capacity-building in recipient countries. However, sustainable development should not be treated as an additional component requiring special funding, but should be integrated into the regular programme within the core budget.

31. The AIDS epidemic had become a tangible threat to the economic and social development of an increasing number of countries. Illicit drug trafficking and the abuse of narcotic substances had also become obstacles to political, economic and social development. UNDP could significantly contribute to stopping the spread of HIV and drug abuse by integrating social and economic measures into country programmes.

32. The Human Development Report 1993 had revealed that development projects should begin at the grass-roots level. Technical cooperation was increasingly needed in the area of human rights and democracy in order to foster socio-economic development. Cooperation between UNDP and the United Nations Centre for Human Rights and among national and international NGOs and voluntary organizations should be developed.

33. Mr. Rysinski (Poland), Vice-President, took the chair.

34. Mr. ABELIAN (Observer for Armenia) said that the collapse of traditional economic and trade arrangements, devastation caused by the massive earthquake of 1988 and the sudden introduction of world market prices for imports had caused serious economic and social problems in his country. None the less, his Government remained committed to democracy and to developing a market economy. UNDP could play an important role in fostering the development of the private sector. His Government was deeply grateful to the United Nations for establishing the UNDP interim office in his country and was convinced that specialized agencies which could provide technical, advisory and coordinating assistance would enhance the durability of the transition that was already under way.

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35. Mr. PETERS (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) said the High Commissioner had launched a three-pronged strategy involving prevention, emergency response and solutions to tackle the gap between humanitarian assistance and long-term development. Developmental activities were vital to resolving a number of problems of refugees and the internally displaced. By engaging development agencies like UNDP at the planning stage, it should become easier for UNHCR to disengage itself once it had completed its own task, while other, more development-oriented agencies carried on and completed measures initiated by UNHCR.

36. Initiatives to bridge the development gap had revealed that special emergency development assistance was needed in returnee operations, and UNHCR had singled out three elements for immediate attention in order to address that gap. They were: increased inter-agency cooperation, new models of intervention for quick-acting development and the inclusion of areas of return in national reconstruction plans. Moreover, owing to the scarcity of resources, a more careful assessment of needs and budgets and a consolidated resource strategy were imperative.

37. The collaboration of UNHCR and UNDP would continue to be tested in operations around the world. UNDP's role had been crucial in the reintegration of returnees in Mozambique, South-East Asia and Central America. More recently, UNHCR had provided material humanitarian assistance to a number of new independent States, and was closely following UNDP activities in the former Soviet Union in order to maximize coordination.

38. Mr. ANSARI (India) said that despite domestic constraints, his Government had regularly increased its voluntary contribution to UNDP during the previous two years. His country looked forward to continued technical assistance from UNDP that would facilitate the development of environment-friendly technologies. Decentralization measures that envisaged delegating financial powers to the Resident Representatives would help countries to proceed with important issues without waiting for time-consuming approval procedures.

39. Capacity 21 offered UNDP a chance to address coordination issues at national levels and assist Governments in planning a clear strategy for implementing sustainable environmental programmes. However, concern for the environment should be integrated into the activities of other agencies in order to avoid any duplication. While the move from a concept of "assistance" to one of "cooperation" was commendable, new impulses for cooperation should not undermine recipient Governments' basic commitment to steer the destinies of their countries in the most sustainable manner.

40. He urged all donors to maintain the levels of their contributions to UNDP, pointing out that otherwise UNDP would have to cut back projects in developing countries. While efforts to streamline procedures and improve efficiency were commendable, restructuring had to be approached cautiously. His Government welcomed increased technical cooperation in areas such as the fight against HIV/AIDS, but warned against enlarging UNDP's mandate to such an extent that the organization ceased to be effective.

(Mr. Ansari, India)

41. While certain improvements had been made in the new Human Development Report 1993, new criteria had introduced indicators which were too general to reflect the complex socio-economic conditions of countries. The academic excellence of the report, with reference to his country, had been marred by a total disregard of the fact that, in spite of deprivations, his Government had honoured the dignity of the individual and rejected uniformity in thought and action. He hoped that future such reports would be fine-tuned to better reflect rational criteria and take better cognizance of countries that had performed well under adverse conditions.

42. Mr. CHINETOV (Observer for Kyrgyzstan) said that he was particularly concerned about UNDP technical assistance to his country and hoped that the favourable approach thus far adopted towards its needs would continue. As a newly independent State, with a new constitution and a new national currency, as well as long-standing economic problems, his country was reliant on UNDP technical assistance and hoped that the constructive work on drawing up a country programme would soon bear fruit. The country programme under preparation was a comprehensive one and should be implemented as soon as possible in order to promote sustainable development and capacity-building.

43. He recognized that UNDP resources were limited and that priorities needed to be identified. In that connection, he welcomed the fruitful cooperation between his Government and the UNDP office in Kyrgyzstan, which had prompted donor countries such as Norway and the Netherlands to review their attitude towards his country and offer valuable support.

44. The scientific and technological activities of UNDP were particularly important to his country and to the Commonwealth of Independent States as a whole, and he welcomed the emphasis placed on organizational and managerial aspects. Given the lack of resources, funds should be concentrated on technology transfer and the Special Programme Resources (SPR) should also be used for that purpose. Scientific and technical activities could also contribute to his country's privatization policy. He regretted the 30 per cent reduction in the UNDP budget but felt that science and technology should be exempt from budget cuts and that SPR funding should be increased because of its important catalytic effects.

45. The outcome of the meeting in Bishken between donor countries and international financial organizations had been most encouraging, particularly the cooperation between the United Nations and the World Bank. His country's social and economic reforms and favourable human rights record were encouraging donors to provide assistance, which was being effectively managed by the State Committee on Foreign Investments. The introduction of the new national currency was posing serious challenges and clearly further financial support was needed from the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and other agencies to sustain the country's development and help its people. Finally, he noted that the Human Development Report, 1993 contained valuable information on his own and other countries.

46. Mr. SOEGARDA (Indonesia) agreed with the Administrator that development and development cooperation had taken a new direction as a result of changing circumstances and attitudes, increasing interdependence and globalization, and a broadened concept of peace and security. Development should be seen as a multidimensional, broad-based and people-centred endeavour, involving grass-roots participation and embracing both men and women. Its social, economic and political dimensions had been recognized, as had the importance of sustainability.

47. The disappointing resource situation for 1993 posed a threat to the effective execution of current and also future programmes. Nevertheless, some donors had announced a substantial increase in their contributions and he hoped that others would follow that example and that cost-sharing and other extrabudgetary resources would be further strengthened.

48. The promotion of technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC) was vital for national capacity-building, increasing South-South cooperation and encouraging broad-based, people-centred development. In addition, it would help expand the world economy, bringing benefits to the developed countries too. In that connection, he welcomed the various measures already taken by UNDP to increase the use of the TCDC modality, as detailed in the report of the Administrator (DP/1993/52). He welcomed the fact that personnel from his country had been chosen to serve as resource persons for national sensitization and orientation workshops, which, together with increased information flows, should help improve awareness of the value of TCDC. Strengthened focal points and the availability of data through the TCDC Information Referral System (INRES) should make it easier to identify the institutional capacity of developing countries. The problems posed by lack of funding and the failure to appreciate the benefits of TCDC could be overcome through more effective use of indicative planning figures and the provision of greater information on the needs and capacities of developing countries.

49. With reference to General Assembly resolution 47/199, he welcomed the call for closer coordination between developing countries and the United Nations development system, as well as the emphasis on national execution and ownership of country programmes. Increased emphasis should also be placed on human resource development.

50. The various funding organizations and programmes of the United Nations system should be reviewed so as to harmonize their cycles and adapt them to the national budget cycles, plans and strategies of the developing countries. In addition, national execution should be the norm for programmes and projects of UNDP and UNFPA, and greater priority should be given to improving the developing countries' capacity in that respect.

51. Despite its limitations, the Human Development Report appeared to be moving in the right direction and he welcomed the dropping of the human freedom index and the increased focus on health, well-being and education. Bearing in mind that there was no single model for successful development, the report needed to be more sensitive to the culture and traditions of individual countries. The report had rightly advocated greater decentralization; his country had always stressed the need to mobilize grass-roots development within a framework of

(Mr. Soegarda, Indonesia)

growth, stability and equity. Given the growing consensus that human resources were the essential means of achieving economic, social and development objectives, he hoped that future reports would focus more on helping developing countries to meet their own development goals.

52. On the question of restructuring and reform of the United Nations, he stressed the need for greater participation by developing countries in decision-making processes, so as to make the workings of the system more transparent and democratic. He noted the initiative to relocate the Office of Project Services in the Department for Development Support and Management Services and hoped that the quality and effectiveness of its work would be maintained and strengthened.

53. UNDP had made a significant contribution towards integrating environmental concerns into the mainstream of development activities and he particularly welcomed the Capacity 21 programme it had launched, especially the emphasis placed on capacity-building, human development, participation and sustainability. Environment and development issues were inseparable and global in nature and should be addressed jointly by both developed and developing countries. He therefore hoped that Capacity 21 would not be constrained by lack of financing.

54. Mr. KABIR (Observer for Bangladesh) said that the vast political and economic changes of recent years had led to a new direction in development efforts, which were now focused on the welfare of the individual and the community. However, the hopes placed in the peace dividend and enhanced international cooperation in the post-cold war period had not been realized, while the international community's preoccupation with the Commonwealth of Independent States and the countries of Eastern Europe had put pressure on the resources available to developing countries. For the second consecutive year, the growth rate of UNDP central resources had fallen well short of the 8 per cent target set by the Governing Council in decision 90/34, thereby jeopardizing the ability of UNDP to meet its commitments under current and future programmes. For programme planning purposes, UNDP had decided to assume that only 75 per cent of the indicative planning figures established would be available, but he urged donors to make the commitments needed so that programme needs could be met in full.

55. Although UNDP technical cooperation assistance had made a laudable contribution to the development process in the developing countries over recent decades, a number of weaknesses remained. Because of shortcomings in the provision of training experts, institutional capacities in key economic areas had not been properly developed, while failure to meet national priorities and use of inappropriate technology had also caused distortions. Technology transfer had not been achieved on any major scale and the absence of a clear relationship between development priorities, sectoral objectives and technical aid programming was a further source of concern.

56. The implementation of General Assembly resolutions 44/211, 46/219 and 47/199 would ensure strong country-based programmes, better coordination and a cooperative approach. The programme approach, national execution, capacity-

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(Mr. Kabir, Observer, Bangladesh)

building, decentralization, monitoring and evaluation were all important elements and their implementation should be accelerated to enhance programme quality and delivery. UNDP support should be geared to the specific characteristics of developing countries and the United Nations system should give greater priority to building the developing countries' capacity to undertake national execution. In order to enhance coherence, programme development and approval should be further decentralized to the field offices, whose efficiency should be improved through appropriate training programmes so as to help ensure timely and cost-effective implementation of country programmes. The fullest possible use should be made of existing national expertise and institutions and inter-agency coordination should be strengthened. The resident coordinator function should also be strengthened and appropriate training programmes should be organized to ensure effective implementation of the new support cost arrangements.

57. The Capacity 21 programme was a timely initiative which would assist developing countries in building national capacity for sustainable development and help them respond adequately to the requirements resulting from Agenda 21 and the agreements reached in Rio. It would help mobilize resources for the implementation of Agenda 21 through national and local environmental programmes and would play a catalytic role by integrating environmental concerns in development planning.

58. The economies of the least developed countries faced daunting problems and their economic performance and social economic progress in the early 1990s had been disappointing. Per capita GDP had fallen, flows of official development assistance had declined and high levels of external debt continued to pose problems. In response to the Programme of Action adopted at the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, the countries concerned had initiated economic reforms to improve mobilization and use of resources and provide increased opportunities for the private sector and market economy. However, those reforms must be supported through increased external financing, debt relief measures and increased access to markets. The increased allocation of resources to least developed countries during the fifth programming cycle established by Governing Council decision 90/34 would continue to be an important plank of UNDP policy in future years.

59. Whatever reforms were introduced, the main characteristics of UNDP operational activities must be preserved, including its universality, neutrality and multilateralism, and its ability to respond to the developing countries' own policies and priorities. It must never lose the support it enjoyed from the developing countries as a result of their sense of ownership and participation in governance. UNDP should be given adequate resources to enable it to fulfil all the provisions of resolution 47/199, since no institution could be fully effective or innovative in a climate of financial uncertainty.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.

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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 20th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 9 June 1993, at 10 a.m.

President:	Mr. HADID	(Algeria)
later:	Mr. RADE	(Netherlands)
later:	Mr. HADID	(Algeria)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATOR FOR 1992 AND PROGRAMME-LEVEL ACTIVITIES (*continued*) (DP/1993/11, DP/1993/13, DP/1993/14, DP/1993/15 and DP/1993/16)

1. Mr. ACHARYA (Observer for Nepal) said that peace-keeping budgets had recently increased while the budgets of development funds and programmes had fallen sharply. Peace and development were interrelated and there must be a balance in the budgets allocated to both. While the Programme's determination to establish a solid foundation for peace was laudable, the 25-per-cent cut in the budget of UNDP country programmes must not be allowed to affect the low-income countries where peace could be threatened by poverty, hunger and disease.

2. The world must capitalize on the post-cold-war development opportunities, especially the climate of improved coordination between donors and recipients. The comparative advantages of UNDP in functional and substantive areas and its capabilities should be put to the most effective use. While capacity-building was an area that needed special attention, care must be taken to ensure that capacity-building programmes were introduced only where they were needed.

3. So far as accountability was concerned, proper orientation of the activities of the new Department of Development Support and Management Services and of UNDP cooperation with non-governmental organizations and grass-roots organizations should assist in filling the implementation gap to a considerable extent. However, the services of executing agencies should be used only at the request of the country in question.

4. UNDP played a very important role in the Global Environmental Facility. With respect to the advancement of women, his delegation hoped that the Gender-in-Development Programme of UNDP and gender training and national capacity-building in favour of women and inter-agency collaboration would further support the cause of women.

5. UNDP should collaborate with the World Health Organization (WHO) in the global struggle to curb the spread of HIV/AIDS. Moreover, in view of its limited resources, UNDP must strive to attain the best results at the lowest possible cost. It must therefore thoroughly examine the impact of adding new programmes on its overall performance before approving them.

6. Mr. HABITO (Philippines) said that adoption of the programme approach indicated the seriousness of UNDP in making external contributions truly supportive of national goals and programmes and not substitutes for them. The programme approach was the best way of making optimal use of assistance from various donors. Another noteworthy initiative was the effort to enhance coordination among United Nations agencies through harmonization of programming exercises and cycles of member organizations around the planning cycles of the recipient countries.

7. His delegation welcomed the heightened emphasis made on decentralizing United Nations organizations and national execution. National execution ensured national ownership of United Nations system-supported activities and hastened the process of transferring capabilities to national institutions.

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8. His country was committed to human and sustainable development and had begun to implement its commitments under Agenda 21 through a multisectoral approach and broad-based participation in development programmes. A similar approach had been taken with regard to human development programmes which were directed towards the most disadvantaged groups. UNDP should assist the Philippines in further developing national capacity to conceive, manage and execute programmes. In that regard, his delegation welcomed the initiatives of UNDP on Capacity 21.

9. The Philippines welcomed the increasingly active role of UNDP in promoting the electoral process, the private sector, recipient countries' capacities in relief and rehabilitation and combating HIV/AIDS.

10. At a time when the entire United Nations system was gearing itself to face new responsibilities, the sharp decline in expected contributions to UNDP for 1993 was very disquieting. UNDP had played a strategic role in some of the major structural reforms that his country had initiated by virtue of its neutrality and access to international expertise. The expected decline in resources reflected the need to emphasize efficiency in UNDP operations and to concentrate on high-impact activities.

11. Mr. LING (Observer for Belarus) said that peace could not be achieved at the expense of human and economic development. The United Nations must continue to play a dynamic role in human development and UNDP was a unique instrument for achieving peace, democracy and development, having met the challenges of the global transition from confrontation to cooperation. Since receiving recipient country status in 1991, Belarus had become an active partner in cooperation with UNDP. Opening an integrated United Nations/UNDP office in Belarus was a decisive factor in that regard, enabling his country to cooperate with the United Nations system and other international partners for the purpose of national capacity-building. Belarus had already carried out preparatory work on programmes covering the economic and social aspects of the transition process, trade information and the development of an export market. Its organizations were participating in the implementation of regional projects to privatize and reorganize enterprises. An agreement had been signed between Belarus and United Nations Volunteers, and a draft short-term United Nations/UNDP country programme in Belarus was being drawn up.

12. The United Nations/UNDP office had become an integral part of his country's national potential, enabling it to move into the world economy. In view of that, he hoped that those activities would receive further support at the current session, inter alia, during the consideration of the revised budget estimates for 1992-1993 and the budget estimates for 1994-1995.

13. Mr. KHAN (Pakistan) said that UNDP was the only organization in the multilateral development system that was neutral and granted funds and could therefore advise countries on policy and strategy development. It could help countries develop national strategies for rationalizing their use of bilateral and multilateral sources as well as national resources. That would enable countries to coordinate all external assistance and to channel it into areas

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(Mr. Khan, Pakistan)

where it was most needed thus avoiding donor-driven activities. UNDP could provide assistance for priority themes or sectors not covered by other organizations hence any attempt to limit UNDP to globally agreed priorities defined in the General Assembly or the Governing Council would undermine its ability to play its unique role effectively.

14. The strength of UNDP lay in its ability to provide policy and strategy advice to countries at their request. That was its comparative advantage since countries were not likely to use bilateral donors in politically sensitive areas. If United Nations funding organizations, particularly UNDP, assisted recipient countries in developing national strategies in areas such as environment and sustainable development, it would enable such countries to use external assistance more efficiently and thus reduce duplication and waste and also avoid potential conflict of interest with bilateral donors.

15. In order to overcome the conflict of interest inherent in the Development Programme's reliance on specialized agencies for objective, independent and innovative technical advice, the support-cost system needed to be renovated. Since under the current arrangement specialized agencies earned 13 per cent for executing UNDP projects, they tended to sell projects to recipient countries which those countries might not really need, thus preventing UNDP from rendering assistance to countries on the basis of its comparative advantage. That arrangement "projectized" development because it forced UNDP to split up issues artificially so as to fit the mandates of each specialized agency, thus making it very difficult to render assistance on a multisectoral or thematic basis.

16. The shift to the programme approach could also do with more innovative modalities which, under the overall management of Governments, could allow funding agencies supporting a national strategy to manage and monitor the implementation process jointly.

17. In the context of decentralization, there was an urgent need to rethink the role of both UNDP headquarters and the field offices. UNDP and the Governing Council must leave micromanagement to the country level and concentrate on ensuring that UNDP funds were used in projects that were really needed and were consistent with specific national strategies. Headquarters should have a supportive rather than a controlling function and should strive to develop a substantive institutional memory in UNDP.

18. Neither the project-by-project approach nor the demand of some donors for the funding by UNDP of a set of globally identified themes addressed the fundamental problem of structures or solved the Programme's search for an identity. The UNDP role in funding programmes under Agenda 21 in the context of Capacity 21 would only result in a large scatter of unrelated projects. The Programme's experience in Pakistan had demonstrated that its role was not in particular themes but in strategy development. Each country must therefore identify the areas in which UNDP had a comparative advantage vis-à-vis bilateral donors for its development.

(Mr. Khan, Pakistan)

19. His delegation was deeply concerned that the serious shortfall in UNDP resources under the fifth programming cycle would create difficulties for the development plans of developing countries including his own.

20. Mr. PASHOVSKI (Observer for Bulgaria) said that his country attached particular importance to the efforts to adapt technical cooperation to the unprecedented changes in development priorities and supported further incorporation of technical cooperation activities into national development programmes and the principle that it was the responsibility of recipient Governments to ensure effective programme implementation. In that context, he stressed the need to focus attention on strengthening national capacities for planning, designing, implementing and evaluating technical cooperation programmes and activities as an indispensable prerequisite for national execution of projects and programmes. At the same time, the modalities for national execution should not prevent utilization of experience and expertise available through the specialized agencies and regional commissions.

21. Governments should also play the central role in coordination. Bulgaria commended the efforts to coordinate UNDP activities with the executing agencies and favoured further such cooperation between the Programme and the specialized agencies as well as aid institutions and funds outside the United Nations system. There were still latent opportunities for greater UNDP participation in multi-funded projects and programmes.

22. His delegation supported the efforts to formulate new concepts for human-centred development and seek new modalities for efficient technical cooperation responding to the needs of Member States. He noted with appreciation the attention accorded to actions for assisting countries in making the transition to a market economy and democracy. Developments in Central and Eastern Europe posed tremendous challenges. In accordance with the principle of universality, the United Nations system should respond to the assistance requirements of all countries in need.

23. His Government looked forward to making use of the Programme's comparative advantage in utilizing its programme resources and hoped that the current programme level could be maintained, if not increased. 1993 marked the third consecutive year of Bulgaria's painful transition to a market economy and macroeconomic stabilization. Decisive steps were being taken to transform the country's economy in the context of a changing political situation and an unfavourable external environment. As elsewhere in Eastern Europe, the transition was proving to be a lengthy and difficult process. His Government had maintained its firm commitment to the principles of a market economy and had reoriented its macroeconomic policy.

24. The external economic environment had deteriorated further as a result of the trade and economic sanctions imposed against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Bulgaria's strict compliance with those sanctions had caused serious damage to its economy. In view of the considerable losses incurred by Bulgaria as a result of the sanctions against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Iraq, the overall economic situation had already had an extremely negative impact on his country's social and economic development. Accordingly, he hoped that the international community would respond sympathetically to the serious

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(Mr. Pashovski, Observer, Bulgaria)

economic difficulties encountered by Bulgaria owing to the sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. In that connection, he expressed appreciation to UNDP for the initiative to send to Bulgaria an independent international consultant to evaluate the economic consequences of the losses resulting from implementation of the sanctions. His delegation looked forward to further action in that regard by UNDP and their United Nations agencies, including the possibility of setting up special assistance programmes or trust funds.

25. Mr. ANDERSON (Jamaica) said that development priorities must begin with the developing countries and effective use must be made of external cooperation to support those initiatives, promoting national capacity-building and ensuring sustainability. While Jamaica recognized that current development flows were not adequate to meet the ever-growing needs of developing countries, it appreciated the growing sense of cooperation displayed by developed countries and appreciated the Programme's assistance aimed at developing human resources and management in critical areas in health and education. Although he welcomed in principle the new support-costs regime, he shared the concern expressed by a number of delegations that a simpler set of arrangements would have been more useful and therefore supported the invitation to review those arrangements. Jamaica endorsed the concept of the programme approach and expressed its appreciation to the Programme for assistance in formulating its national plan, which provided the framework for a broad thematic approach to address critical economic problems. National institutions must be strengthened through ongoing capacity-building to ensure successful programme implementation.

26. For development to be meaningful, women must participate fully in economic activity. His Government was committed to ensuring full participation of women in social and economic development and recognized that women had not fully benefited from the development process. The administrative mechanism for implementing that commitment had already produced tangible results.

27. Jamaica's poverty-alleviation programme was designed to focus on income-generating activities and ensure that the country at least maintained its 1992 HDI. As for the environment, his Government had undertaken a national action plan to implement Agenda 21. Jamaica was also participating in a cooperation programme with other member countries of the Caribbean community (CARICOM) as a follow-up to the UNCED process. A conference on sustainable development in small island-States would be held in Barbados in 1994 to reach agreement on an effective relevant joint strategy. It was hoped that the Programme would provide financial support for the preparatory work of the conference. In 1992, a centre for sustainable development had been established at the University of the West Indies and would focus on research related to a wide range of issues on environment and development. The centre deserved UNDP financial assistance and could make a tangible contribution to the preparations for and follow-up to the 1994 conference. Jamaica relied greatly on the Programme for assistance in implementing Agenda 21 and considered Capacity 21 a useful mechanism to achieve some of its goals.

28. His Government, in collaboration with UNDP, had conducted a symposium in 1992 to review its industrial system in the light of new approaches and production technologies. The recommendations of the symposium had been submitted and a new industrial policy was being formulated.

(Mr. Anderson, Jamaica)

29. He noted with satisfaction that support for regional economic integration had been a major feature of UNDP activities in all regions. The CARICOM countries had sought to expand their intra-regional trading arrangements in order to create a single market. The UNDP programme of assistance to the subregion was therefore critical and should remain as it was for the fifth cycle, taking into account the obvious advantages provided by the well-established institutional base, the CARICOM secretariat. While the small States of the Caribbean Community envisaged wider association within the hemisphere, priority attention was being focused on strengthening existing integration strategies. Accordingly, it was hoped that UNDP would continue to provide assistance in accordance with the needs and stated preferences of the subregions and member countries.

30. The initiatives taken to decentralize UNDP operations and give greater autonomy to the Resident Representatives would enhance the focus of development programmes and ensure cost-effectiveness. Jamaica had benefited considerably from the effectiveness of the Programme and the Resident Representative/Coordinator modality in that regard. The United Nations Volunteers programme had made a tremendous contribution to Jamaica, particularly in the areas of health and education. He expressed appreciation for the work of the local field office in seeking innovative ways to obtain third-party contributions to help fund volunteers in the field.

31. The reform of operational activities would make UNDP a more effective institution. Although success had been achieved in implementing certain aspects of General Assembly resolution 47/199, greater efforts should be made to complete them. While peacemaking and peace-keeping budgets had increased several times over between 1991 and 1993, voluntary contributions to UNDP had declined for two successive years, necessitating cuts in the level of targeted expenditure to 75 per cent of initial indicative planning figures. Those developments might have a far-reaching impact. Jamaica believed that economic betterment was as essential as the maintenance of peace and security and reiterated its support for the Programme in order to send a clear signal to the donor community that developing countries attached considerable importance to UNDP assistance for achieving their development objectives. Accordingly, he hoped that the current shortfall in resources was but a temporary phenomenon and called upon donor countries to reconsider the level of their anticipated contributions to the Programme as an expression of their commitment to the ideals of peace, democracy and development.

32. Mr. GOUMENNY (Observer for Ukraine) said that the advent of international economic, environmental and demographic problems had made it necessary for States to reexamine their views on the functioning of the world economy and multilateral cooperation. UNDP was at the centre of the restructuring efforts intended to enhance the effectiveness of United Nations activities in the economic and social fields.

(Mr. Goumenny, Observer, Ukraine)

33. Ukraine supported the general orientation of agreements on the reform of operational activities of the Organization. He believed that it was necessary, during the reform process, to make an extra effort to strengthen the principles of universality and multilateralism of operational activities, particularly where countries experiencing great change were concerned. Without calling into question the current focus of operational activities on the needs of the developing countries, his delegation would expect that UNDP would expand its programmes of support to new recipient countries with economies in transition.

34. It would be worthwhile for UNDP to incorporate a programme approach that would tie multilateral assistance to national development programmes. Ukraine believed that the future of UNDP would depend upon progress in implementing the recommendations of General Assembly resolution 47/199 with respect to decentralization of UNDP activities, strengthening the role of resident coordinators and improving organizational structure.

35. Ukraine attached great importance to the UNDP programmes and projects for sustainable development, in particular the Capacity 21 initiative, humanitarian cooperation activities and human resources development. Steady progress in those and other UNDP activities would depend to a certain degree on stable inflows of financial resources. His delegation was of the opinion that participation in multilateral technical cooperation should be voluntary and, therefore, contributions for that purpose should be voluntary. Also in that connection Ukraine had been concerned to learn of the reduction of financial contributions to UNDP for 1992. It was clear that the best way to resolve the financial crisis facing UNDP was to take additional steps to collect supplementary voluntary contributions and to become more active in attracting funds from the private sector.

36. Unfortunately, Ukraine would not be in a position to make hard currency financial contributions to the Organization's development activities although it would be active in support of implementing UNDP projects.

37. Ukraine was in the grip of a deep economic and energy crisis. Since 1992, investment had dried up, production was continuing to fall, and inflation was on the verge of hyperinflation. Ukraine was encountering severe economic difficulties associated with mitigating the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, of its adherence to the sanctions regime against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and of the decline in deliveries of oil and other energy products from the Russian Federation. In addition, uncertainty regarding convertibility of currencies among the States of the former USSR was also causing difficulties.

38. Ukraine's most urgent task was to develop administrative and economic methods for regulating the economic situation. The country was in the midst of a wide-ranging programme scheduled to denationalize industry within two years, agricultural reform, a tight credit policy and privatization of small and medium-scale enterprises. The programme also provided for liberalization of foreign trade, reform of the banking system and the creation of conditions for introducing a convertible national currency, modernization of industry and infrastructure and social safety-net programmes for the population.

(Mr. Goumenny, Observer, Ukraine)

39. The international community, in particular UNDP, was in a position to assist Ukraine in many of the tasks it had undertaken. His delegation hoped that the aid flow would eventually become substantial and include, in addition to technical support, assistance aimed to attract foreign capital to Ukraine.

40. The office that the Organization had established in Ukraine for integrated representation of specialized agencies reflected a conceptually innovative model for a United Nations presence consistent with the mandate of General Assembly resolution 47/100.

41. In implementing Governing Council decision 92/43, UNDP had concluded that integrated representation was needed in each of the newly independent States. The formula for situating the field offices was optimal inasmuch as it took into account the interests of the Baltic States and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). In departing from that formula, the establishment of a regional integrated representation would hardly provide a solution to the problems confronting field offices. Moreover, given the insufficient resources available to the field offices, a regional presence would be mostly symbolic. He hoped that as the operational activities of the field offices increased, staffing levels would follow.

42. Ukraine attached great importance to implementing technical and advisory assistance programmes. In order to coordinate the work of international technical assistance programmes, the Government had established a special agency, the National Centre for the Implementation of Technical Assistance. The presence of the Organization's field office in Ukraine would open up new opportunities in that area in the future, especially with respect to training indigenous personnel, automated information management systems, and expert technical advisory services.

43. The Ukraine field office had taken specific steps to coordinate technical assistance in the areas of training programmes for administrative personnel, reform of the financial sector and the promotion of privatization, as well as the creation of institutional mechanisms to attract foreign investment. It also played a role in coordinating the activities of other specialized agencies in evaluating the social impact of economic reforms. Work had begun to apply for bilateral aid for Ukraine.

44. Ukraine also supported the work of UNDP in training personnel in small business administration. In the future, training programmes would be expanded to include a Transfer of Knowledge through Expatriate Nationals (TOKTEN) modality and the United Nations Short-term Advisory Resources (UNISTAR) and United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programmes, whose services had received high marks from other countries having economies in transition. He hoped that in the future the operational activities of the Organization in Ukraine would increase.

45. Mr. MOKOTJO (Lesotho) said that the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development had called upon UNDP and other United Nations specialized agencies to play important roles in the implementation of the objectives set at Rio de Janeiro. He noted with satisfaction that a number of cooperating partners had already made contributions to promote Agenda 21.

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(Mr. Mokotjo, Lesotho)

Nevertheless, without an increase in the resources available to UNDP, it would be extremely difficult for the Programme to respond with vigour to requests from Governments for assistance. Lesotho associated itself with the appeals made to the donor community to respond positively to that challenge.

46. On the question of the distribution of resources under Capacity 21, his delegation endorsed the proposals put forward by the Administrator. While it endorsed such principles as geographic balance, however, it also believed that need should be the main criterion for allocating resources.

47. He noted that UNDP and a number of other agencies were preparing strategies to intensify inter-agency collaboration and national capacity-building in the area of women and development through gender-specific training programmes. The Government of Lesotho was actively reviewing its legal system to ensure that no discriminatory laws and policies existed. Given its unique geography and heavy dependence on employment in the Republic of South Africa, Lesotho had long recognized the need for equal opportunities for all, irrespective of gender. His Government's strong emphasis on programmes of immediate benefit to women and children deriving from the important role which women played as head of the family when their male counterparts were employed in South Africa. He acknowledged the contributions of United Nations agencies, including UNDP, UNIFEM, and UNCDF, in imparting skills and knowledge to train women as managers, organizers and small-scale entrepreneurs. International assistance to women had a positive impact on the capacities of non-governmental organizations and grass-roots organizations, whose members were predominantly women. His Government had always supported such organizations and benefited from their cooperation.

48. As for the Africa 2000 network, Lesotho was one of the 11 African countries in which the programme was fully operational. The programme's potential would have a much greater impact if it were to be strengthened both financially and technically and he therefore looked forward to the continued generosity of the donor countries.

49. UNDP was expected to make an important contribution to the preparatory process for the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, the 1996 United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, and the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development. It had also been called upon to participate in the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s and the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s. Unfortunately, increased demand for UNDP assistance had not been matched by similar increases in financial resources, largely owing to the economic recession in the industrialized countries and the increase in the number of recipient countries.

50. The winds of democracy sweeping through the developing world called for participation of the people in decisions which affected their daily lives and offered challenges to UNDP and other United Nations agencies, which were being called upon increasingly to participate in implementing programmes outside of their traditional areas of operation. The recent elections in Lesotho, for example, had been facilitated by the enormous support received from UNDP and

(Mr. Mokotjo, Lesotho)

other bilateral and multilateral partners. The Lesotho electorate held high expectations of the democratic environment and looked to the new administration to implement projects and programmes that would change their social and economic condition. The task was enormous and required sacrifices and contributions from the Government, the private sector and the people themselves. The international community's support was also needed to complement domestic efforts if democratic rule, peace and law and order were to be sustained.

51. Twelve months after its adoption, the fifth country programme for Lesotho remained undone owing to the lack of a clear interpretation of the programme approach and the difficulty of translating broad concepts into feasible programmes. His delegation was therefore pleased to note that a common interpretation of programme approach had been adopted by the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) and that UNDP had set its guidelines on that modality. When new mechanisms were adopted in future, the necessary preparatory work should be finalized before those approaches were implemented in order to avoid unnecessary delays.

52. As a least developed and land-locked country, Lesotho attached great importance to the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s and had gone to great lengths to honour the commitments it had undertaken. Painful but necessary economic structural-adjustment programmes continued to be implemented at great social cost. The country's foreign investment code had been revised with a view to improving the climate for foreign investors, and the Government was committed to structural reforms that would create an environment conducive to private capital investments.

53. Social conditions in the developing countries, and particularly in the least developed of them, continued to be highly disturbing. His delegation therefore welcomed the assurances given at the current session to support development initiatives in the developing countries, with particular attention to the least developed countries and Africa. Lesotho pledged to make good use of the assistance provided and the programmes developed in line with its national programmes and policies.

54. Mr. ALIKHAN (Deputy Director-General of the World Intellectual Property Organization) said that the mission of UNDP was increasingly to promote sustainable human development, taking into account social, ecological and economic considerations, and a wide range of development supports, including the private sector. The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) looked forward to participating in that process. Intellectual property systems were an integral part of economic and social policy and their positive effects extended across the entire fabric of society. They also contributed to economic and social welfare by promoting and protecting the scientific, technological and artistic creativity of people, encouraging the flow of new ideas and knowledge, and providing, through patents, trade marks and industrial designs and copyright, instruments by which individuals and enterprises could generate income through the commercialization of works and inventions.

(Mr. Alikhan, WIPO)

55. Social development could be enhanced by recognizing and valuing innovative activities, including artistic and musical expressions. The protection offered by industrial property to inventors and by copyright to authors, composers, musicians and performing artists gave clear incentives to the creative segments of society and helped to strengthen its economic and cultural identity.

56. The quality of life of a population also depended vitally on effective control of environmental hazards. It was therefore important to be able to identify, obtain or develop appropriate techniques and "clean" technologies. The legal, technological and commercial information available through the patent system offered an invaluable source of ideas, knowledge and guidance in identifying and negotiating the acquisition of relevant technologies.

57. Beyond those considerations, an effective intellectual property system served as a catalyst for private-sector development, particularly among small- and medium-sized enterprises, by stimulating innovative research, providing access to foreign technology, and by contributing to a favourable investment climate. Those advantages could enhance the competitiveness of private firms in a world of global technology and markets, thereby enabling the private sector to contribute to national development.

58. The supplementary funding that WIPO received from UNDP was a source of impartial multilateral support for development cooperation activities of benefit to many countries.

59. Intellectual property management often called for standardized approaches to legal, institutional, procedural and technical matters on the regional, subregional and regional levels. Experience had shown WIPO that regional cooperation in such matters was a particularly effective way to improve economic competitiveness and thereby contribute to the development process.

60. As for the contribution of WIPO, it was a source of concern to him that fifth-cycle inter-country indicative planning figures (IPFs) had been reduced significantly, thus adversely affecting the ability of smaller technical agencies to provide assistance. Moreover, those reductions came at a time when requests for technical assistance from national WIPO-affiliated agencies were increasing. In order to lighten the burden on the smaller agencies, he invited the Council to consider replacing regional IPFs with Special Programme Resources (SPRs). In addition, the Council could consider continuing sectoral support allocations at current levels or higher through the fifth cycle and consulting with WIPO on measures to increase participation of the latter in UNDP-financed activities.

61. Lastly, resident coordinators could be encouraged to consider the special capacities and experience of small technical agencies when assisting countries in the preparation of country strategy notes and in reviewing country programmes. The participation of WIPO in such activities could be reimbursed according to how well the desired objectives would be achieved.

62. Mr. Rade (Netherlands) took the Chair.

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63. Mr. PONCE (Ecuador) said that the radical changes which the world had witnessed in recent years, with the disappearance of the Soviet bloc, the widespread adoption of market economies and the end of the cold war, had opened up unprecedented possibilities for cooperation, which the international community should not fail to exploit.

64. Despite those favourable developments, however, a number of dangers still remained. International peace and security continued to be threatened. The nuclear threat, for example, would remain until the objective of total elimination of nuclear weapons was achieved. In addition, regional conflicts and deepening racial and religious intolerance were factors of destabilization which raised serious doubts about the future of the new world order.

65. The positive political changes of the previous few years had not been accompanied by similar economic changes. The peace dividend had not reached developing countries and the link between disarmament and development had found no practical expression. Developing countries everywhere suffered from the scarcity of resources. The emerging world order had required immense sums of money for peace-keeping operations which, in 1993, would cost $3.7 billion.

66. On the other hand, access to international credit had been severely curtailed for the developing countries, which had become exporters of capital by way of debt-service payments and private investment flows continued to be directed largely to the industrialized countries. The large fiscal deficits and huge commercial surpluses of some industrialized countries drained the resources of the international community with devastating consequences for the developing countries. The restrictions on international trade imposed by the industrialized countries and the lack of political will to remove them had resulted in tremendous losses for the developing countries which far exceeded the resources received by way of international cooperation. In addition, external cooperation had not achieved its desired effect and, although steps were being taken to use it more efficiently, overall volume was declining.

67. The economic situation had led to a marked deterioration in living conditions for broad sectors of the population, particularly in the developing countries and there was little indication of changes in the international economy in the near future.

68. Those international developments had refocused attention on the role of the United Nations and on the need to reform it. In that connection, the Secretary-General's proposals in his report "An Agenda for Peace" was an attempt to provide a conceptual framework for the political work of the Organization. That document would be complemented by an "agenda for development" which, together with the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the forthcoming World Conference on Human Rights, and other important meetings, would guide the economic, social and cultural activities of the Organization. Upon completion of the current process of reform, the various organizations and mechanisms of the United Nations system would have precise guidelines for their activities. A consensus had already begun to emerge around the idea that international peace and security were not merely an absence of armed conflict and that resolution of the causes that led to conflicts, including the

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satisfaction of the basic needs of populations, was indispensable for achieving peace and, consequently, an essential function of the Organization.

69. Against such a backdrop, the parameters for the activities of UNDP would be fully defined upon completion of the reform process under way. In the meantime, the Governing Council and the Administrator had been adopting measures to enhance the effectiveness of the Programme, exploit its comparative advantages, and improve its management systems, while at the same time redefining the conceptual framework for its activities.

70. In the debate on development, Latin America had been particularly active. ECLAC and SELA had for several decades questioned the linear view of development as economic growth and had advanced innovative concepts advocating the integral development of the society and individual.

71. His delegation therefore welcomed the international community's acceptance of the broad concept of development advocated by UNDP in its Human Development Report. That concept defended the indivisibility of human rights and simultaneously promoted civil and political rights on the one hand and respect for economic, social and cultural rights, on the other. The report showed that respect for individual rights required respect for the rights of peoples - self-determination, the right to development, the right to peace, and the right to a healthy environment. The Human Development Report was itself a step in that direction, although the team which prepared it should be careful not to reduce to a mathematical formula the complexity of human and social aspirations and realities. He was convinced, however, that the deficiencies of the Report could be corrected with contributions from all those concerned. There were certain aspects of the so-called "developed" societies which were negative while there were deeply rooted positive aspects of the developing societies, which the Report had failed to take into account. The international community should be aware of the shortcomings in the Report and should ensure that its evaluation of countries had no implications for their access to international cooperation.

72. Ecuador supported the programme approach advocated by the Council, which offered greater flexibility in meeting the needs of recipient countries. One possible negative consequence of the manner in which that method had been applied was the very broad range of sectors that were currently covered by UNDP activities. While that situation reflected the diversity of interests of the various Governments, UNDP should concentrate its activities on projects that were clearly within its main programme areas and should channel other requests to competent organizations and agencies, supplementing, where necessary, the cooperation provided by such sources. The adoption of a broad conception of development should not encourage the belief that UNDP should be present in all areas of human activity. Activities related to the exercise of civil and political rights deserved special attention and competent United Nations bodies had been established to promote those rights. The reform process under way should therefore equip them to promote democratic values and participatory forms of governance.

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73. His delegation shared the concern expressed by the representative of Japan that the limited resources available to UNDP should be used to provide technical assistance for electoral processes. While of fundamental importance to the international community, such a task should be carried out by other mechanisms of international cooperation and the activities of UNDP in that area should be limited to providing support in exceptional cases. The Council should also bear in mind the risk that the participation of UNDP in internal political activities, such as elections, might affect its well-earned credibility as a neutral technical body, with adverse consequences for its future effectiveness.

74. Humanitarian assistance and disaster and other types of emergency relief had been receiving increasing attention from the Secretary-General who, with the establishment of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, was preparing the Organization to face its increasing challenges. Ecuador attached particular importance to the role of UNDP in the administration of the Global Environment Facility and hoped that the Facility would be managed in a transparent and democratic way.

75. UNDP should brief its resident representatives on the characteristics of Capacity 21 in order to promote better awareness of the scope and modalities of the Programme. Ecuador supported the implementation of that mechanism, which would help to strengthen national capacities in the field of the environment, an area in which UNDP should be guided by the guidelines laid down by the Commission on Sustainable Development, which was responsible for the follow-up of the agreements reached at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. It also supported the actions taken by UNDP to integrate environmental impact into the design, execution and evaluation of projects implemented with its cooperation.

76. Latin America and the Caribbean had a long-standing and rich experience of cooperation with UNDP. The support which the region had provided to the Programme was reflected in the marked increase in the funds which the regions' Governments had allocated to projects executed with its cooperation. He was therefore concerned by the trend towards reduction of the region's allocations through various procedures.

77. His delegation was aware of the tragic situation that faced the countries of Africa and was fully agreed on the need to grant them priority attention. The people of Latin America unconditionally supported the increase in resources allocated to programmes in that continent.

78. Latin America faced serious social problems. Its statistics on poverty were alarming and the imbalance between regions and lack of diversification and competitiveness in its productive sector had created social tensions which had frequently led to violence.

79. The Governments of the region had in recent years been forced to adopt economic programmes which had entailed enormous sacrifices. The objective of those programmes was to permit Governments to honour their debt-servicing commitments while at the same time developing the competitiveness of certain economic sectors. The protectionism of the industrialized countries, however,

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adversely affected the competitive and labour-intensive sectors, as the recently adopted European policy on the importation of bananas had demonstrated. New trade restrictions based on ecological considerations had been applied to several of the region's products. Debt renegotiation offered only short-term relief and prolonged the region's status as an exporter of capital. Foreign investments, moreover, were not directed to countries with small domestic markets.

80. The worsening economic situation had led to a rise in social tensions and a loss of faith in the democratic system. In more than one case, democratic regimes had been overthrown. The concept of preventive diplomacy, put forward by the Secretary-General, was of direct relevance to the economic problems of the region since, if current trends continued, deteriorating social conditions could endanger peace and democracy.

81. Given those conditions, donor States should carefully review their cooperation in face of the enormous problems of the region and their possible evolution. A relatively small increase in investment in Latin America and the Caribbean could yield positive results over the short term. If the effort were not made soon, the international community would later be obliged to elaborate massive programmes of assistance at a higher cost and with uncertain results.

82. Mr. SINGH (Fiji) said that Fiji appreciated the work done to identify ways for taking better advantage of UNDP's comparative benefits in the development field. Henceforth, UNDP's challenge would be to translate the results of that work into action with respect to strengthening coordination, decentralization and the elimination of programme duplication. He welcomed the shift from a project to a programme approach as a step towards fuller implementation of the recommendations, and he believed that the new guidelines for field offices would be very helpful in linking inputs from specialized agencies to the particular needs of recipient countries.

83. With regard to the follow-up to Agenda 21, the Capacity 21 initiative would go a long way towards assisting developing countries in formulating strategies to integrate environment and development. In the future, in-depth evaluation of progress made in Capacity 21 would be helpful in identifying weaknesses, long-term benefits and the degree of integration of Capacity 21 programmes into individual country programmes. He was pleased to note that UNDP was assisting his country and 15 other island States to strengthen their capacities so as to protect biological diversity through the Global Environment Facility (GEF). In another programme under the rubric of Capacity 21, the Sustainable Development Network (SDN), voice communications and on-line access to databases had been established for 22 South Pacific States for the purpose of conducting environmental research. In order to make the most out of SDN, additional resources would be required to finance training staff in the use of the on-line databases.

84. With respect to the participation of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), Fiji viewed their role as an important complement to the work of the specialized agencies, particularly in such areas as national capacity-building, poverty alleviation and increasing popular participation in development and

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environmental management. Fuller involvement of NGOs in both in-country and regional programmes and projects could yield substantial benefits in the future.

85. Fiji believed that activities directed towards increasing the participation of women in development should continue to receive high priority. While progress had been made in implementing UNDP's Women in Development (WID) mandate as well as Governing Council decision 91/8, much work remained to be done in guiding women in numbers into the development process. Recent initiatives in the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Bank, and the Joint Consultative Group on Policy (JCGP) were deserving of special praise in that regard. Moreover, Fiji supported efforts to strengthen WID at the field level through the work of Resident Representatives and systematic reporting and monitoring schemes.

86. Fiji had sent a representative to participate in a field visit of the Special Committee on Programme Matters and had drawn some valuable lessons. He looked forward to his country's participation in additional visits in the future. Fiji also looked forward to the mid-term review of its fifth country programme and hoped that the process would provide useful insights into problems and suggestions with respect to any reorientations in programming that would be of value.

87. Mr. Hadid (Algeria) resumed the Chair.

88. Mr. AKPLOGAN (Benin) said that UNDP was the only truly international entity concerned with operational questions of development. Members of the Council should combine their efforts to reaffirm and strengthen the unique and central role of UNDP within the context of restructuring the operational activities of the Organization in the economic and social fields. The centrality of the role of UNDP was reflected in the Human Development Report which had injected a human dimension into the development discussion by defining development in qualitative terms. In Benin, the operational activities of UNDP during the fifth cycle focused mainly on two areas, capacity-building in economic management and improving the quality of life through small-scale projects in rural development and natural resources management.

89. The development process required every bit as much coordination and integration of effort as peace-keeping activities. For Africa, integration meant to promote trade, investment, research and development in all of the countries of the continent. Through its assistance to the African Economic Community UNDP was helping to lay a foundation for a new level of regional economic cooperation.

90. Benin attached great importance to the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). He believed that UNDP would play a large role in that effort by integrating environmental concerns into development programmes. New attention to environmental concerns was a critical need for Africa where programmes to combat desertification and drought were an urgent priority. For that reason, Benin welcomed the establishment of the Capacity 21 initiative.

(Mr. Akplogan, Benin)

91. Benin was concerned that, just as UNDP was being called upon to take up new challenges in addition to its traditional tasks, the level of resources available to the Programme was in decline. A lack of resources would pose a serious handicap to effective execution of programmes during the fifth programming cycle. He appealed to donor countries to focus their attention on the creation of solidarity between all States by cooperating to promote development.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.